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## The Bison, February 2, 2007

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## Harding Community Mourns Loss Of Alumnus, Soldier

**ASHTON REELY**  
assistant news editor

Whether he was suiting up for the big game or putting on his military uniform, Micah Gifford faced the challenge that stood before him.

Spc. Gifford, a former Bison football player, was killed in Iraq on Dec. 7 following the detonation of an improvised explosive planted near his unit. He was 27.

Gifford came to Harding from Redding, Calif. in 1998 and graduated in 2002 with a bachelor's degree

in business administration. Friends Gifford made at Harding said he had a great impact on their lives. Web sites in his honor are flooded with comments and memories written by people whose lives he touched.

Assistant dean of students Brian Bush attended school with



**GIFFORD**

Gifford and said he recalls good times they shared.

"There are people in your life that you come in contact with that make you better for having known them," Bush said. "Micah was one of those guys. When you look back on memories with him, they are all fun things that make you smile."

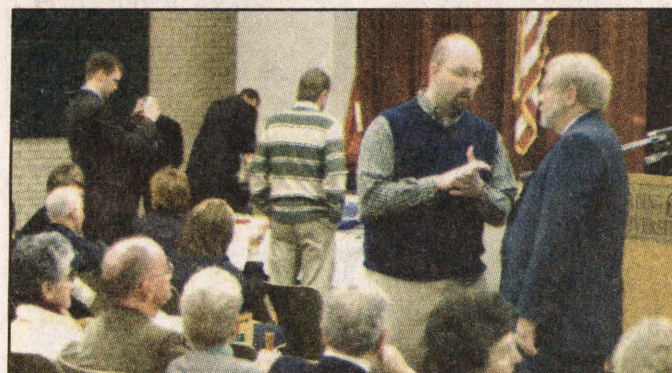
Head football coach Randy Tribble said he remembers the funny, hard-working young man whose spirit and work ethic contributed to the success of the football program.

"I think he made other people

better and was really unselfish in the way he played the game," Tribble said. "I think that is reflected in his desire to go help over there. As a teammate, a soldier and a Christian young man, he displayed those qualities in all areas of his life."

Soldiers like Staff Sgt. Brian Embry remember Gifford in much the same light. Amidst war, Gifford was still able to show Christ to those around him. On Gifford's web site there is a poem written by Embry in honor of his friend and fellow soldier.

see **GIFFORD** page 3A



JEFF MONTGOMERY/ Public Relations

Dale Gifford, father of late Spc. Micah Gifford, talks with assistant dean of students Brian Bush at Gifford's memorial service Jan. 20 in the Heritage Auditorium. Gifford, a 2002 graduate, was killed Dec. 7 in Iraq.

## Science Center Evacuated



CRAIG RAINBOLT/The Bison

Firefighter John Gernenz, Lt. Tracy Treece and engineer Mike Stout of the Searcy Fire Department inspect the area surrounding the McInteer building to determine the air quality after an electrical failure occurred Jan. 27 in the Pryor-England Science Center causing hydrogen sulfide gases to be released into the building. No injuries were reported.

### Presence Of Gas, Loss of Electricity Investigated

**HEATHER BROWNING**  
editor-in-chief

Students and faculty were evacuated from the Pryor-England Science Center on Saturday after a foul odor caused by hydrogen sulfide gas was reported in the science center.

According to Dr. David Cole, chairman of the science department, the gases, which produced a rotten egg smell, were created during the disposal of heavy metal solutions collected in the science center's chemistry labs.

Schools around the country routinely conduct the same experiments that caused the gas, according to Cole. The gases accumulated and were released into the building after a power failure caused the vent hoods, which were being used to dispose

of the fumes to shut off.

"The way we normally take care of [disposal] is not a problem," Cole said. "It would not have been an issue if the electricity had not gone off."

Harding Public Safety was notified of the problem and a fire alarm was activated to evacuate the building and alert the Searcy Fire Department. Initial reports to the fire department than a possible explosion had occurred in the science building turned out to be inaccurate, Captain Reed Lee of the Searcy Fire Department said.

The fire department received a call from Harding an hour prior to the problems in the science center, Lee said. The fire department responded to reports of a light haze of smoke in the electrical panels of the McInteer building caused by a transformer

going out, and the building was evacuated. The two events were unrelated.

Upon arrival to the science center, firefighters were notified of the problem with hydrogen sulfide gases and began testing to check the air quality in the building, which detected high levels of carbon monoxide, Lee said. The levels of carbon monoxide detected were not consistent with gases produced by hydrogen sulfide.

Cole said the readings were inaccurate because nothing was present in the building to produce the carbon monoxide gas.

"I would stake a year's salary that there was no carbon monoxide in the building," Cole said. "Sometimes meters will give [a] false positive depending on what else is present. [It was] the hydrogen sulfide that was

**"The way we normally take care of [disposal] is not a problem. It would not have been an issue if the electricity had not gone off."**

DAVID COLE  
chairman of the science department

the problem. It may have been interfering with the meter to give a false positive."

The gases released into the science building were not toxic, Cole said, but at high concentrations have the potential to be lethal. While the odor released by the chemical can be used to warn of potential health dangers, the odor does not mean a problem is present. The science center was evacuated as a precautionary measure.

see **SCIENCE** page 3A

## Cancer Deaths Decline In U.S.

**MELISSA MCDONALD**  
assistant copy editor

The American Cancer Association has reported a decline in the number of cancer deaths in the United States for a second consecutive year, according to a review of U.S. death certificates conducted by the National Center for Health Statistics, a Jan. 17 AP report said.

Cancer deaths in 2004 were 553,888, down 3,014, or .5 percent, from the year before. The number had decreased in 2003 by 369 as well but it was not reported because of the possibility of it being a temporary drop, the article said.

Earlier detection, more effective treatments and declines in smoking are factors credited with the decreased numbers, especially in the three most common types of cancer: breast, prostate and colorectal.

The largest drop in deaths was in colorectal cancer, by 1,110 in men and 1,094 in women. The article said this is due to screening exams such as colonoscopies that detect potentially dangerous polyps earlier. Increased insurance coverage of these procedures has also contributed to higher numbers of screenings.

Statistically, the decline in cancer deaths annually is one percent. However, in 2003 and 2004, cancer declined by two percent.

Dr. John Seffrin, American Cancer Society chief executive officer, said dropping cancer death rates have been recognized in the past despite more actual deaths because of the growth of a growing and aging population.

"Now, for the first time, the advances we've made in prevention, early detection and treatment are outpacing even the population factors that in some ways have obscured the success," Seffrin said in Feb. 9, 2006 article on the ACS Web site.

Cancer kills nearly 1,500 Americans a day, the AP article said. It touches the lives of many Harding students and faculty as well.

Senior Amanda Phillips

said she has seen loved ones affected by cancer, including her grandmother and a long-time friend.

Phillips said her grandmother was diagnosed with breast cancer a little over a year ago.

"She went through about six months of chemotherapy followed by radiation, and her most recent bone and body scans both came up negative," Phillips said. "Right now she is recovering from all the medicine and is getting stronger daily."

Phillips said her friend James was diagnosed with leukemia in high school.

"After his first bout with cancer he went into remission until it resurfaced, and he passed away last summer while the doctors were doing a routine procedure after his treatment. He was 23."

In having experienced a victory over cancer with a family member and the death of a friend because of it, Phillips said the reports of the number of cancer deaths being down affects families with loved ones battling cancer.

"I think that it gives us more hope that the research being done daily is producing newer and stronger and more innovative treatments," Phillips said. "I think when a person or a family is facing something as horrible as cancer, we want the best odds that we can get, and if those are getting better, then I think that is something for every family to be thankful and excited about."

For Leah Burks, wife of President David Burks, the battle with cancer was personal and also a source of life lessons, she said.

"I was diagnosed with breast cancer in the fall of 2000, so after surgery, I proceeded to take chemotherapy for the next six months," Burks said. "A year later I was told that the cancer was not gone and had metastasized to the bone. I then took more radical chemotherapy treatments and radiation over the next several months."

Burks said the treatment was grueling, but it taught her what was really important in life.

see **CANCER** page 3A

## Searcy Police, Harding Public Safety Work To Prevent Sexual Assaults

**ANDREA THORNTON**  
news editor

Last year, there were 16 cases of assault reported to the Searcy Police Department, 14 of which were sexual.

According to the police and Public Safety, cases of such extreme danger are relatively rare. However, as with any community, Harding is not immune to the dangers of sexual assault. To keep abreast of community dangers, the Office of Public Safety keeps

close contact with the Searcy Police Department.

Police Chief J.R. Thomas and Major Kyle Osborne said they have an "excellent" relationship with Harding's public safety division. Craig Russell, director of public safety, echoed this.

"We regularly look through police files to make sure we know what's going on in this area," Russell said.

Thomas cited one instance of a rumored assault, which supposedly took place in a Har-

ding dorm, in which Harding was very helpful in the police department's short investigation to root that out.

"Rumors run rampant," Osborne said. "And Harding may have a reputation of being 'hush hush,' but sometimes, they don't get a fair shake. I mean, it didn't happen. They started calling us; we started calling them. And it turns out it didn't happen here; it was in Jonesboro."

The problem with determining the true number of sexual assaults

is that they often go unreported. According to a national survey by the Rape, Abuse and Incest National Network, 59 percent of sexual assaults go unreported. Also, only 26 percent of perpetrators were strangers.

Beth Wilson, chair of the family and consumer sciences department, works heavily to combat domestic abuse.

"It's sort of a myth that it's stranger danger," she said. "You're most in danger with people you know."

**"Harding may have a reputation of being 'hush hush' but sometimes, they don't get a fair shake."**

KYLE OSBORNE  
searcy police department

Wilson works with Searcy's Battered Women's Shelter and said that in 2006, through October, they had housed 184 women and children.

In cases of violence (sexual

or otherwise) within dating or co-habitative relationships, there is a hotline available 24 hours a day at 278-HOPE. In January, Searcy also started a separate rape hotline.

"It's not going to stop until we [as a society] say this is unacceptable," Wilson said.

In the case of sexual assaults, 75 percent go unreported when the perpetrator is a current or ex-boyfriend and 82 percent if he or she is a friend.

see **PUBLIC SAFETY** page 3A



02.02.07

## Vocational Ministry Is Easier Than You Think

As a business professional, I have come to realize that timing is everything when trying to combine vocation and ministry. As a financial service professional, my goal was to let my "light shine" in what I said and did in my actual job duties, but I also prayed for opportunities to share my Christian story and talk openly about my God.

Jeff Walling, pulpit minister of the Providence Road Church of Christ in Charlotte, N.C., helped me with determining the right time in people's lives. I remember hearing Jeff share his experience and telling the listeners that people were most open to hearing you tell your story and talk openly about God during times of choice, change and crisis.

I am convinced that Harding University graduates have a unique opportunity to truly be salt and light in whatever profession they choose. As a Christian professional, you will attract people who are struggling, hurting and facing major life decisions simply because they like what they see in your life. You will be sitting in your office and a colleague will approach you and say, "I need your advice, I'm considering a divorce" or "I don't know what to do, my child just got suspended from school" or "What would you do if....?"

When you are face-to-face with a co-worker

DR. ALLEN FRAZIER

### Faculty Voice



who needs God-directed advice in times of choice, change or crisis, you can simply use this phrase: There is only one thing that would get me through what you are going through right now.

I am convinced that Harding University graduates have a unique opportunity to truly be salt and light in whatever profession they choose.

I have found that the response has been one of two things. Either, "Really, what is it?" or "Oh please, you're not going to tell me about God again?" Either way, you have a unique opportunity to

share what a relationship with God means to you and tell your colleague how God has helped you and been with you through similar challenges.

Notice that I said "when" you are face-to-face with a colleague because when you live your faith out loud, people will be drawn to you and God will bless you with opportunities. What I'm suggesting is not to be interpreted as trite or a trick. It's simply a tool for those who are praying for God to use them as an instrument of Christ's grace and peace in the workplace.

May God bless you with many opportunities to be salt and light and may you make the most of every one of them.

ALLEN FRAZIER is a professor of business and can be contacted at afrazier@harding.edu

SATURDAY 2.3

SUNDAY 2.4

MONDAY 2.5

TUESDAY 2.6

WEDNESDAY 2.7

THURSDAY 2.8

FRIDAY 2.9

40/26

47/28

43/26

35/24

46/30

50/37

55/30

## WEEKLY WINDOW



Sophomore Heather Johnson stands with friends on the front lawn Wednesday during the snowfall. It was the first snow of the season.  
JONATHAN LINDSAY/The Bison

## IN & OUT: NEWS TO KNOW

### Derby Winner Barbaro Euthanized

Kentucky Derby winner Barbaro was euthanized on Monday, eight months after surviving a near-fatal accident at the Preakness Stakes in 2006.

Two weeks after winning the Kentucky Derby, Barbaro shattered his right hind leg near the beginning of the Preakness. Instead of being euthanized at the track, Barbaro was transported to University of Pennsylvania's New Bolton Center where the horse underwent a five-hour surgery to repair the leg.

Roy and Gretchen Jackson, Barbaro's owners, made the decision to put down Barbaro after complications from the injury. The horse had developed laminitis in his left hind hoof while his injured leg developed an abscess.

Multiple surgeries had been made to correct the problem, but Barbaro's condition grew steadily worse in late January.



BARBARO

under law. The bill would cap troop levels in Iraq at around 130,000 and require that troops begin coming home on May 1 with all combat brigades returning to the United States by March 2008.

Some legal scholars question whether Congress is authorized to bring troops home because of the president's control of the military. Obama said that he taught Constitutional law for 10 years and rejected the idea that the congressional authorization for war in 2002 gives Bush "carte blanche to proceed in any way."

Obama suggested that troops be sent to three locations: home to the United States, in countries around Iraq to prevent regional conflict and to Afghanistan, where there is danger of falling back under Taliban control. Obama expects his bill to gain bipartisan support though he has no co-sponsors at this time.



OBAMA

### Miss America Crowned Amid Scandals

Lauren Nelson of Oklahoma was crowned Miss America 2007 in Las Vegas Monday amid a swarm of scandals over naughty beauty queens.

Miss USA, Tara Conner, nearly lost her crown in December for underage drinking but was allowed to retain her title in exchange for time in rehabilitation.

Also, Miss Nevada, Katie Rees, got into trouble with her boss, Donald Trump, who owns the Miss USA and Miss Universe contests. She was fired after racy photographs of her surfaced online.

The Chairman of the Miss America Organization board, Sam Haskell, said all contestants sign a mandatory morality agreement upon entering the pageant.

"The Miss America pageant represents a dream machine, something to dream about, and Miss America is a role model, someone for little girls to look up to," Haskell said.

However, this morality contract was famously breached in 1984 by singer and actress Vanessa Williams. Williams had to resign when explicit photographs of her appeared in Penthouse.

Former Miss America 2002, Katie Harman, voiced concern that the controversies of recent months may reduce the amount of respect people have for beauty queens.

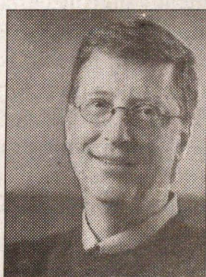
"These negative events are very disappointing," Harman said. "We are role models and we need to get this image back."



NELSON

### Microsoft Unveils Vista Software

After being released to businesses on Nov. 30, Microsoft Chairman Bill Gates revealed the new Vista software to the general public Jan. 30. After more than five years in the making, Vista went on sale in 70 different countries.



GATES

Microsoft said PC users should make the upgrade to Vista because of its 3-D user interface and desktop search function. Vista also boasts improved security and parental controls.

Consumers who plan on upgrading a new XP computer can count on spending \$100 to \$259 for Vista alone, depending on the version.

Despite the fact that neither consumers nor businesses have rushed to upgrade, Microsoft still looks to have quarterly revenue of between \$13.7 billion and \$14 billion and \$50.2 billion and \$50.7 billion, a potential increase of between 15 and 18 percent and 13 and 14 percent respectively.

### Obama Introduces Redeployment Bill

Democratic presidential candidate Sen. Barack Obama said Jan. 30 that the United States should be out of Iraq by spring 2008 in order to end what he calls a "foreign policy disaster."

In response to Bush's challenge to critics to offer alternatives, Obama introduced a bill to force redeployment

## Calendar

**Feb. 4** Bison Baseball, noon  
Glory Road, 7 & 9 p.m., Benson  
Open House, 6 - 8 p.m.: Pryor,  
Cathcart, Stephens, Pattie Cobb

**Feb. 4** Super Bowl

**Feb. 8 - 11** Bison Daze

**Feb. 8** Survey Says Game Show, 7 p.m.  
Administration Auditorium

**Feb. 9** Jet Pack and Cheyenne Medders,  
7 p.m.: Administration Auditorium

**Feb. 10** Basketball, Lady Bisons 5:30 p.m.,  
Bisons 7:30 p.m.

**Feb. 11** Open House, 6 - 8 p.m.;  
Graduate, Cone, West Apts.



## Pryor Announces Retirement After 45 Years

ASHTON REELY  
assistant news editor

After nearly half a century of teaching in the Bible department, Dr. Neale Pryor announced last week that he will be retiring at the end of this semester. Though he's been teaching for 45 years, Pryor has had ties with Harding since his junior year in college.

Pryor completed two years at Freed-Hardeman University before following his roommate to Harding in the fall of 1954. Pryor completed his undergraduate work and then went on to the Harding University Graduate School of Religion in Memphis. It was during this time that he met his wife, Treva, whom he married in 1960. Shortly after, the couple moved with their two children, Alan and Lori, to Louisiana so Pryor could pursue his doctorate at the New Orleans Baptist Seminary School.

Pryor had been preaching full time for two years in Wood River, Ill., when he received a call from Harding offering him a job in the Bible department. Pryor said he always knew he would take this opportunity if it presented itself. In 1962, the Pryor family moved to Searcy and purchased the last lot on Harding Drive; it was on that lot that they

built the house in which they live today.

Pryor has served in many different capacities at Harding. He has served as Vice President for Academic Affairs and also as chairman of the Bible department. Of the many positions he has held and classes he has taught, Pryor said he has most enjoyed teaching the freshman survey classes.

"You just look out there in a classroom, and you're affecting just about every state in the union by the people you teach," Pryor said. "I feel that is the gift God has given me, to teach his word."

Junior Shellie Rummer said she felt Pryor had influenced the lives of his students more than he'll ever know.

"You can really tell that God is the center of his life by the way he treats others," Rummer said. "I feel so lucky to have gotten to know him, and I consider him a great role model."

Pryor had the opportunity to serve as an instructor at the Harding University in Greece program this past summer and left quite an impression on students that went senior

Brittany Pade said.

"He never denied any chance he was given," Pade said. "He walked four miles every day in the desert of Egypt and Israel. He hiked upstream in the Engeddi River. He never once complained ... he was a blessing to our trip."

Pryor's daughter, Lori Sloan, assistant professor of marketing, said she discovered her love for teaching by watching her parents through the years.

"I think my mother and father's example is what helped me understand what a mission it can be to teach," Sloan said. "I didn't

major in education, but seeing their example and commitment to Christian education is what helped me realize the mission behind it."

Sloan said her brother, the late Alan Pryor, also possessed his father's gift for teaching. While pursuing his doctorate at the University of North Texas, Alan Pryor signed on as an adjunct professor and was recognized for his many achievements.

Until becoming a parent herself, Sloan said she never fully understood how much she would

come to appreciate her parents for all they had done.

"My parents have a phenomenal work ethic," Sloan said. "After preaching several meetings, my dad would get home late on Sunday night and still make it to his 8 a.m. classes on time. They are definitely a great example of getting up, getting there and getting the job done."

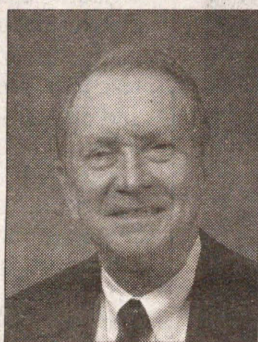
Even though Pryor understands the value of hard work, he said he always remembers what he's working toward.

"I always tell students my favorite verse is, 'What would it profit a man if he gained the whole world and lost his soul?'" Pryor said. "My main advice would be that is the most important thing and not to forget it."

Sloan said she is reminded of Ben Fold's song "The Luckiest" when she thinks of her parents, both of which are retiring after this year. Treva Pryor will join her husband in retirement after years of teaching fourth grade at Harding Academy.

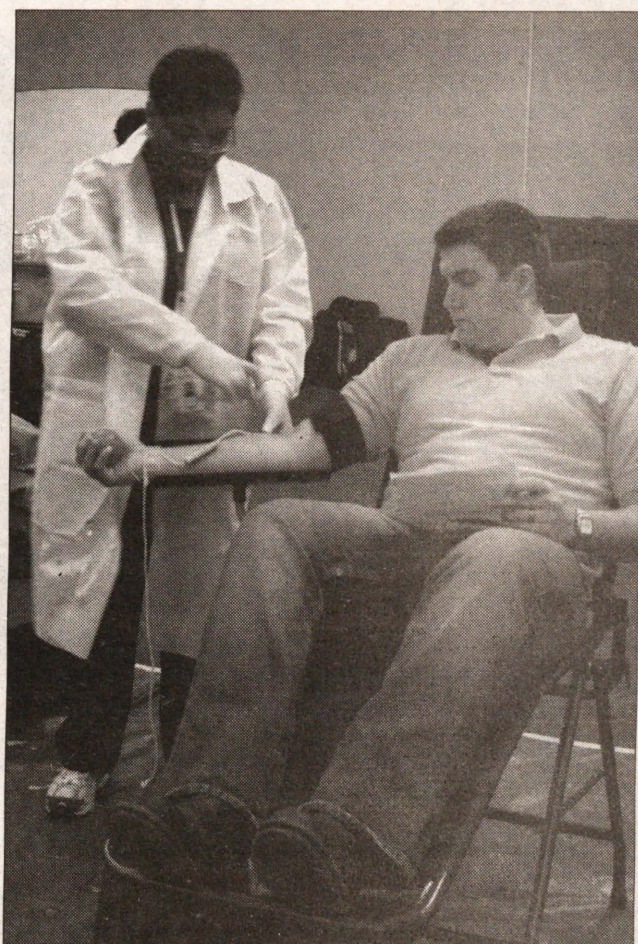
Sloan said she hopes her parents will finally have the time to sleep in, slow down and spend more time with their grandchildren.

"I hope they can wake up every morning, have their cup of coffee and know it was a job well done," Sloan said. "They shouldn't have any regrets."



PRYOR

## Blood Drive



JONATHAN LINDSAY/The Bison

Senior Carl McAfee gives blood on Monday during a recent blood drive. Students who gave blood entered a drawing for a \$100 gas card.

## GIFFORD:

### Harding Remembers Fallen Hero

CONTINUED from page 1

"You always made us laugh and I never heard you curse," Embry wrote. "And in the modern army now, that's pretty much a first."

The poem explains the ways in which Gifford set a good example for the other men in his battalion.

Bush read the poem and said he realized just what his friend had left behind.

"That's a legacy," Bush said. "That says more about him than anything else. That tells me that under the hardest of circumstances he was able to be a Christian example to those around him, even in war."

Written a few months before his death, Gifford's own words illustrate his concern for others:

"In case you are worried

about my well being ... don't. I am proud to be a part of this fight. I signed up to do this for a reason, and I hope that everyone understands why this fight continues to be important to every one of us ... not just the Iraqi people.

"Don't pray that I come home soon. Pray that the people who are causing us to stay out there can see the light and change their ways without harm coming to them first."

A memorial service for Spc. Micah Gifford was held on Jan. 20 in the Heritage Auditorium.

Tribble closed the ceremony by retiring Gifford's jersey. It will be displayed in the Ganus Athletic Center, serving as a reminder of Gifford's legacy.

## SCIENCE: Underground Cables Malfunction, Cause Power Outage

CONTINUED from page 1

"We don't know how high the concentration was. If you can smell it, there is just a potential problem. So to be on the safe side, it was a good idea to have everyone out of the building," Cole said. "I didn't know the security guys were going to trip the alarm

because I would have probably said 'No, I'll just take care of it myself' but in the long run, it was probably good [the fire department] came out and made sure everyone was out of the building and didn't let anybody back in."

All precautions were being made in the disposal of heavy

metals, Cole said, and there are normally no problems in the way Harding disposes of these solutions. Had the electricity not failed, there would not have been an issue.

Electricity was out in several buildings across campus, including Harbin and Allen Halls, until around 6:30 p.m.

Saturday. David Crouch, director of public relations, said the underground cables on campus had malfunctioned causing the electricity to go out.

There have been no reports of injuries or illnesses related to the gases, and people were allowed back into the building once power returned.

## CANCER: Statistics Inspire Hope For Affected Families, Victims

CONTINUED from page 1

"I learned what truly loving friends and family mean to me and how God and prayers can sustain one's strength and hope," Burks said. "The experience put my life and living in perspective. I learned the truly important things in life are not things, but instead are God and people."

In these lessons are where

the real survival lies, Burks said, and although the news reports that cancer deaths are down, nothing is guaranteed.

"Even though I finished treatments the second time four years ago, there is never a guarantee that it will not return — it has in the past, and it could again in the future," Burks said. "It is my

hope and prayer that this dreadful disease can and will be completely eradicated and that no one will have to suffer from its terrible effects.

"Even if the odds of dying from cancer were to drop to one in a thousand, one is even too many — especially if I am that one. Statistics may sound good to those who have been

healed, but to the one who is not, one is one too many. We must remember that our hope and strength do not come from the accomplishments of man and science, but from God."

The American Cancer Society said it believes cancer deaths will continue to drop, the AP article reported.

## PUBLIC SAFETY: Social Stigma, Hazy Definitions Cause Sexual Assault Cases To Go Unreported

CONTINUED from page 1

Sherry Pollard, of the Counseling Center, said assaults often times go unreported because the victims rationalize them.

"I think girls who have been date-raped are very hesitant to call it rape," she said. "They're saying, 'Well, it just got out of hand.'"

Pollard said girls have recounted situations to her

saying, 'He just forced me' and similar language but 'the word rape is not in their vocabulary.'

"But what is rape?" Pollard said. "When you define rape, they're like, 'Yeah, I guess it was.'"

Also, Pollard said many girls don't report because they don't want to deal with the "mudslinging" and a court case.

"They'd rather deal with it in silence and get on with their lives," she said.

Pollard said she understands that predicament but that those girls should still go to a counselor.

"I think it's a pretty big problem [at Harding]," Pollard said. "According to Richard Blankenship, sexual addiction is the Christian drug of choice. It makes sense that

if we've got a saturation of sexual addiction it's going to play itself out on some innocent victim."

Pollard went on to say that some girls don't consider themselves innocent victims.

"But if at anytime a [party] says 'no' to a sexual act and the [other party] continues, it is a crime."

Pollard said sometimes crimes go unreported simply

because the victim doesn't want the perpetrator to go to jail. She said there is precedent at Harding, in those cases where the victim chooses not to go to the police but goes to the counselors or the deans, of dealing with the problem within Harding.

A senior at Harding who wished to remain anonymous said she was assaulted in a campus parking lot by a stu-

dent who had offered her a ride to her dorm. She said she didn't report it because to do so "would be social suicide," echoing many of the reasons Pollard mentioned.

"It's not about the law," Pollard said. "It's about society. It's not going to stop until there is a change, until people go up to him and say 'I know what you did and it was wrong.'"

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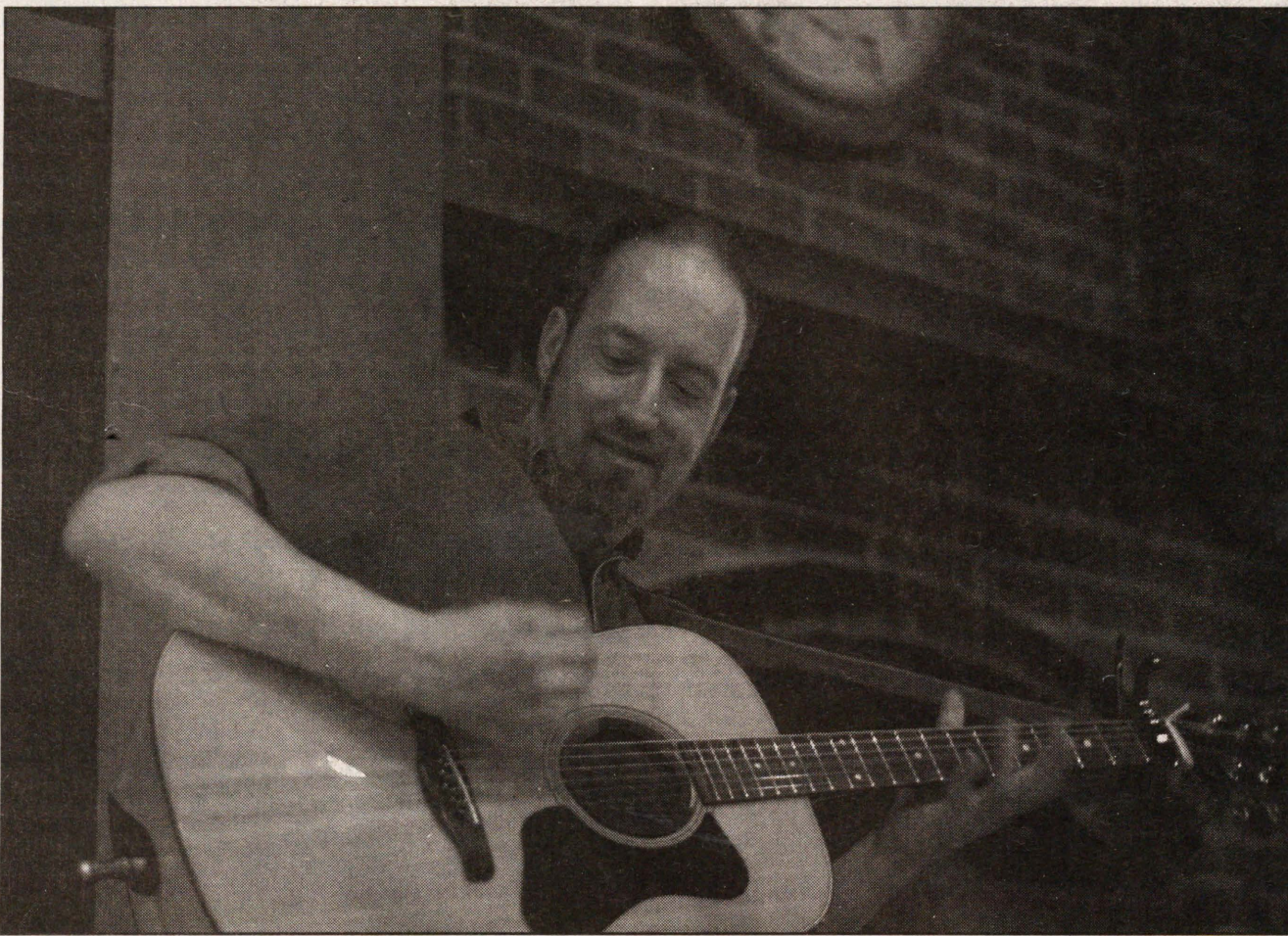
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## Doug Wood



JONATHAN LINDSAY/The Bison

Doug Wood strums his guitar during a performance Jan. 23 at the Student Center. Wood released his latest album, "Dreamcatcher," on Aug. 2006.

## First Muslim Sworn Into Congress

MICHELLE GREER  
student reporter

Minnesota representative Keith Ellison made history Jan. 4 when he became the first Muslim elected to the U.S. Congress.

Ellison, 42, won the vacant seat for Minnesota's fifth congressional district in the House of Representatives with a 56 percent majority vote. He is also the first African-American representative elected from Minnesota.

Growing up in Detroit as a Roman Catholic, Ellison did not convert to Islam until college. While in law school, he wrote several letters supporting the Nation of Islam.

His support of Louis Farrakhan, the leader of the Nation of Islam, caused

controversy in his 2006 election campaign. He has since renounced those ties.

Ellison's choice to use the Quran instead of the Bible in his photo-op after his induction into Congress was also controversial.

Chris Gusaas, a freshman from Minnesota, said the people of his home state were offended because they believe this country was founded on Christian beliefs, and Ellison deviated from those values.

"When Ellison refused to use the Bible, it was like when people come to our country and refuse to learn English," Gusaas said. "He just did not

want to accept our customs and do things the same as everyone else.

"Even though people didn't like it, in the end, it is a good thing he did use the Quran because it is what he believes in. It's good to know that as a politician he is able to stand up for what he believes is right."

HEATHER SHERRY  
junior

Lori Klein, instructor of political science, said she was intrigued by the fact that the Quran that was used belonged to the library of Thomas Jefferson.

"Thomas Jefferson was known to cut out the parts of the Bible that he didn't like," Klein said. "Jefferson made

his Bible suit his needs. It would be interesting to know if he did the same with his copy of the Quran. I also find it interesting that the Quran was translated into English. When translated, it loses its holiness."

Junior Heather Sherry said she was glad that Ellison used the Quran in his pictures.

"I believe that it is more reliable that he used the Quran because swearing on something that you don't believe in doesn't give you any credibility," Sherry said. "Seeing it is just for photo purposes, it doesn't really matter to me that he put his hand on the Quran instead of the Bible."

"He wanted to make a statement of faith, and I think that shows him better as a person."

## Bush Announces Troops Surge In Iraq

MOLLY MORRIS  
student reporter

President Bush announced his decision Jan. 10 to send 21,500 more troops to Iraq to increase security and assist the new Iraqi government in regaining control of Baghdad and the Anbar province. Bush's plan was met with mixed reactions around the world and on Harding's campus.

Senior Scott Seiders, an army civil affairs specialist, was deployed the day before the announcement and said he hopes to help rebuild infrastructure in Iraq by mid-February. Seiders said his job is always in demand and he does not consider himself a part of the surge but does support adding troops to the 130,000 forces already present in the area.

"It's never a bad idea to put more guys on the ground to outnumber the bad guys," Seiders said from a military facility in Tulsa, Okla. "As long as we're there, we're doing a good thing for the people of Iraq."

If Seiders is sent to Iraq after further training, he expects to rebuild public facilities and install new utilities in the country. He said when the Iraqi people see the good things Americans are helping to provide for them, such as jobs and better healthcare, they will be less likely to work with enemy forces.

Despite Bush's goals to help rebuild Iraq's infrastructure, many students find faults with his plan to increase troops.

"I understand why Bush chose to send more troops, but I think it's absurd," junior Paige Wingfield said. "It's a nice thought that we could help rebuild the country, but really the less people that are involved, the better; we have already done enough damage. We need to stop trying to be the world police."

Wingfield said she believes Bush's decision may be a way of ensuring that Congress will not sever military funding.

Senior Ben Lamb said he

does not think the additional troops will put an end to rebellion and warfare inside Iraq.

"To counter insurgency, you need an overwhelming number of [troops], and 20,000 is not particularly overwhelming for a country as large as Iraq," Lamb said.

Lamb said he also fears that this "big push" may hurt the Iraqi government more than it will help it.

"It says to the Iraqi government that we can't trust them to do anything so we're pushing more people in there," Lamb said. "It's bad for them either way. Our forces don't seem like they will be enough to get rid of insurgency, and at the same time it also hurts native Iraq's ability to get rid of insurgency."

However, some students support Bush's decision to send more troops.

"We've put a lot of effort and money into this, and I don't think we should give it all up," junior Rachel Melchers said.

Melchers said she hopes the citizens of Iraq will not see the increased military presence as a threat but rather as a force for good.

"We're not there to take over," Melchers said. "I'm hoping America won't give the impression that we're an imperialist nation. We're there to give their nation back to them. Hopefully they'll see that."

Sophomore Adrienne Barnes has seen two brothers return safely from the war. She said she hopes increasing troops will offer some respite from the violence, thus buying the Iraqi government time to strengthen its own troops and law enforcement.

"It doesn't happen all at once," Barnes said. Barnes said she thinks greater emphasis on training Iraqi forces and encouraging them to set aside their Sunni and Shia differences will prove crucial in stabilizing the country's new democratic government.

"In the long run," Barnes said. "It's going to be up to the Iraqis."

## Violence Continues in Darfur Despite Intervention

BRETT KELLER  
student reporter

Violence in Darfur, a region in western Sudan that is about the size of Texas, has become more intense over the last six months, according to Amnesty International.

On Jan. 22, commanders of rebel forces claimed aircraft from the government in Khartoum, Sudan's capital, have been bombing areas of northern Darfur, according to the BBC. The Sudanese government, led by President Omar al-Bashir, has denied the allegations.

Sudan, which is about one-quarter the size of the United States, has the largest area of any country in Africa, and its population is estimated at 41 million according to the CIA World Fact Book.

More than 200,000 people have died and millions have been forced from their homes during the four-year civil war, according to the BBC. Save Darfur, a coalition of humanitarian and

faith-based organizations, estimates the number killed at more than 400,000.

The conflict has continued despite a peace agreement that was signed by the government and one rebel group in May. Other rebel groups refused to sign, according to the BBC.

The Associated Press reported Jan. 17 that several aid agencies appealed to the Sudanese government and rebel groups to end the fighting, especially the targeting of aid workers.

Food and medicine from aid groups are the only resources available for many of the more than 2.5 million refugees from Darfur, according to the AP. The United Nations has already provided more than \$1 billion in food and other aid, making the conflict in Darfur the most expensive ongoing conflict for U.N. aid agencies, the AP said.

Sophomore Kallie Appleton, who traveled to southern Sudan in 2005 and plans to re-

turn this summer, said the level of suffering is high.

"The conflict in Darfur is probably even worse than actually portrayed by the media," Appleton said.

Amnesty International reports in December summarized attacks by the Janjaweed, militias of nomadic Arabs who are backed by the government of Sudan and sometimes fight alongside the Sudanese military. Raids on villages typically include shootings, kidnappings, rapes and looting. Adults and children are targeted, and whole families are burned alive.

Doctors Without Borders, a relief agency working in Darfur, has reported multiple outbreaks of cholera among refugees fleeing the violence in addition to malnutrition and war-related injuries.

The BBC reported the African Union currently has 7,000 peacekeepers on the ground in Darfur. The United States has declared the ongoing conflict a genocide and has called for a stronger

peacekeeping force under both the African Union and United Nations.

The U.N. Security Council passed a resolution in August calling for a force of 20,000 to bring peace to the region, but President Bashir has blocked its implementation so far, the BBC reported.

Bashir came to power with a government that has implemented a harsh version of Sharia, or Islamic law, throughout northern Sudan. He has claimed international groups are interfering with Sudan's private affairs, according to the BBC.

Bashir was quoted as saying, "Those who made the publicity, who mobilized the people, invariably are Jewish organizations."

Concerning whether the United States should intervene, Appleton said she can see both sides of the debate.

"The bleeding heart inside of me gets mad at the United States all the time for not getting involved, but I also don't see how it's a single nation's

business," Appleton said. "The global community as a whole should intervene."

A U.N. commission reported in January 2005 that the conflict in Darfur had included crimes against humanity and war crimes, but the policies of the government of Sudan could not be technically classified as a genocide, according to the BBC. If the conflict was determined to be a genocide, the United Nations would be required to intervene more forcefully.

A separate civil war between predominantly Muslim northern Sudan, including the Islamic government in Khartoum, and the mostly animist and Christian south, was coming to a conclusion in 2003 when the conflict in Darfur broke out, according to the BBC.

The violence in Darfur began in 2003 when rebel groups attacked government facilities, alleging that the Khartoum government was neglecting the region, accord-

ing to Amnesty International. The government then unleashed and equipped the Janjaweed militias.

Unlike the north-south civil war, which pitted Muslims against animists and Christians, the conflict in Darfur is between Muslims on both sides, according to Amnesty International.

Appleton thinks Harding students should be concerned.

"You can talk about the conflict, you can cry about the terrible things that happen, but things will only change if each person as an individual steps up to try and do something about it," Appleton said. "But I'm frustrated because I don't know what exactly we can do. I think a first step is to do research about the conflict with groups like Save Darfur."

Solving the crisis in Darfur has become a popular issue among American young people. One Facebook group devoted to the conflict has approximately 400,000 members around the country.

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# Beebe Moves Into Governor's Office

J. CLIFF GANUS  
student reporter

Arkansas elected its 45th governor Jan. 9 when former Attorney General Mike Beebe was sworn into office on the steps of the Capitol Building in Little Rock.

Beebe spent the time between the November election and the January inauguration moving into the governor's mansion, making staff appointments and planning to instate the plans and policies he has been discussing throughout his campaign.

In his inaugural address, Beebe said he wanted to seize opportunities and create a new awakening to the possibilities of change and the promises of success. Beebe laid out his plan to do so in his State of the State address delivered Jan. 10.

"I will offer that leadership on the issues facing our state," Beebe said. "As we look to the future and begin the great undertaking of moving Arkansas forward, I intend to be especially involved in the most critical issues of educational advancement, economic development, the well being of our future and meaningful tax relief."

Since the State of the State, Beebe has started moving toward achieving these goals. One of the steps he has taken is to appoint qualified individuals who are interested in helping Arkansas move ahead.

"I have been overwhelmed by the number of talented people who have been recommended for jobs and appointments," Beebe said. "We are facing some difficult decisions because there are so many talented people in our state."

Beebe has already put forth many items for the consideration of the state legislature.

"I am very pleased with the response that we have received on the balanced budget I proposed last week," Beebe said, "but I'm looking forward to working with the legislature and providing them with the needed leadership so that we can move our state forward."

Beebe said he intends to enact many of the plans



Gov. Mike Beebe and his wife Ginger wave to the crowd at the Light Center Nov. 15, 2006. Searcy Mayor Belinda LaForce declared that day as Mike Beebe Day, and Beebe was presented a key to the city.

CRAIG RAINBOLT/The Bison

he has proposed, including "eliminating the grocery tax with a complete phase out, providing universal Pre-K education to all of our youngsters, increasing the Homestead Credit to \$350

from \$300 and working towards all of those things that I have been talking about the last few months."

Beebe was born in Amagon, Ark. and received his degree in political science from Arkansas

State University. After completing his law degree at the University of Arkansas in Fayetteville, Beebe set up an office in Searcy, where he practiced law until he was elected to the Arkansas Senate in 1982. After serving as senator, Beebe

was elected attorney general.

Beebe and his wife, Ginger, have three children. Beebe is a member of Trinity Episcopal Church in Searcy, where he has served as senior warden and member of the vestry.

## Three Searcy Eateries Close

ANDREA THORNTON  
news editor

Three restaurants closed in Searcy over the Christmas holidays.

A&W, formerly located on Walnut Street, just off Race Street, had been a major restaurant in Searcy for many years.

Two other businesses, El Charro, a Mexican restaurant on Main Street and Center Street, and Trail Dust, a barbecue restaurant on Race Street, also closed their doors over the break.

"It's sad," Mayor Belinda LaForce said. "I'm sad to see them go. A&W, especially, is a piece of the city's history."

LaForce said she is not worried, though. During her administration, Searcy has attracted large chain restaurants, such as Chili's, while also supporting locally owned restaurants, such as Doc's Grill.

"The restaurant business in general is a very difficult business," LaForce said.

And yet, some old restaurants like A&W, such as Frozen Delite, have managed a long career in Searcy despite moving from Race Street years ago.

"[Frozen Delite] is in the industrial area of town," LaForce said. "It has excellent food and a steady lunch crowd... Some old establishments survive odd locations."

Theories abound as to why these restaurants may have closed. One theory, championed by local media, is the recent rise in minimum wage. In the fall, Arkansas' minimum wage rose from \$5.15 an hour to \$6.25.

"Personnel cost always has a high impact on a business," LaForce said. "But minimum wage is one thing that needed to go up. It may impact negatively and positively, but I think the positive far outweighs the negative."

Buck Lane of the Searcy Chamber of Commerce said the chamber had not heard of any direct reasons for the closes.

"Jim [Gipson, owner of Trail Dust] did mention that the expansion on Race Street hurt his business some," Lane said. "But we've not been made aware of any reason other than lack of business."

Various students have had mixed responses to the closes.

"I liked Trail Dust," junior Krista Russell said. "It had good food, but it was kind of expensive."

Senior and Searcy resident Emily Baines said she was relatively unaffected by the closes.

"[My family] ate [at Trail Dust] when I was in elementary but not really since," Baines said.

## College of Pharmacy Faces Legal Challenges

ERIN SMITH  
student reporter

In mid-January, after a visit to the board of the Accreditation Council for Pharmacy Education in San Diego, Calif., Julie Hixson-Wallace was approved for an on-site visit by the ACPE to look at Harding's new College of Pharmacy. Harding must earn pre-candidate status before students can be enrolled in the program. The ACPE will be coming to Harding this spring to look at the curriculum and make sure it meets the necessary guidelines to become a professional program.

Hixson-Wallace began her job as new dean of the College of Pharmacy in August and said things are right on track.

"Right now, we are moving along very smoothly," Hixson-Wallace said. "If everything goes as planned, we will be up and running by this fall."

The program will be in the Lee Building for the first year, with 12 teachers on staff. It will remain there until a new facility is completed.

"We have had [more than] 100 potential applicants for this program, but for now we can only take about 40 students," Hixson-Wallace said. "In the next few years we hope to be able to take many more

students and have around 27 to 30 teachers."

Harding had originally planned on leasing space at White County Medical Center South Campus and sharing it with the Physician's Assistant Program.

However, after hearing about this plan, Judsonia resident Dennis Gillam filed a lawsuit against Harding and WCMC to keep the program out of the hospital.

In November, Gillam wrote a letter to the Daily Citizen claiming that Harding was using

Searcy's tax dollars to advance its religious views on the citizens of White County.

"There has been created a culture of corruption in Searcy by winking and nodding and scratching each others' backs," Gillam said. "The big problem is they are doing it with taxpayers' money."

There is no court date set for this lawsuit, but Harding is not willing to wait.

The dean of the Physician's Assistant program, Peggy Huckleba, said they must press on.

**"This lawsuit could take years to work out, and we're not willing to put this on hold."**

PEGGY HUCKLEBA  
dean of physician's assistant program

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## INFORMATION

The *Bison* is a campus newspaper, edited and largely financed by students, seeking to provide high-quality journalistic discussion of issues of concern to the Harding community.

It also serves as an educational tool for students, providing practical experience to enhance skills learned in the classroom.

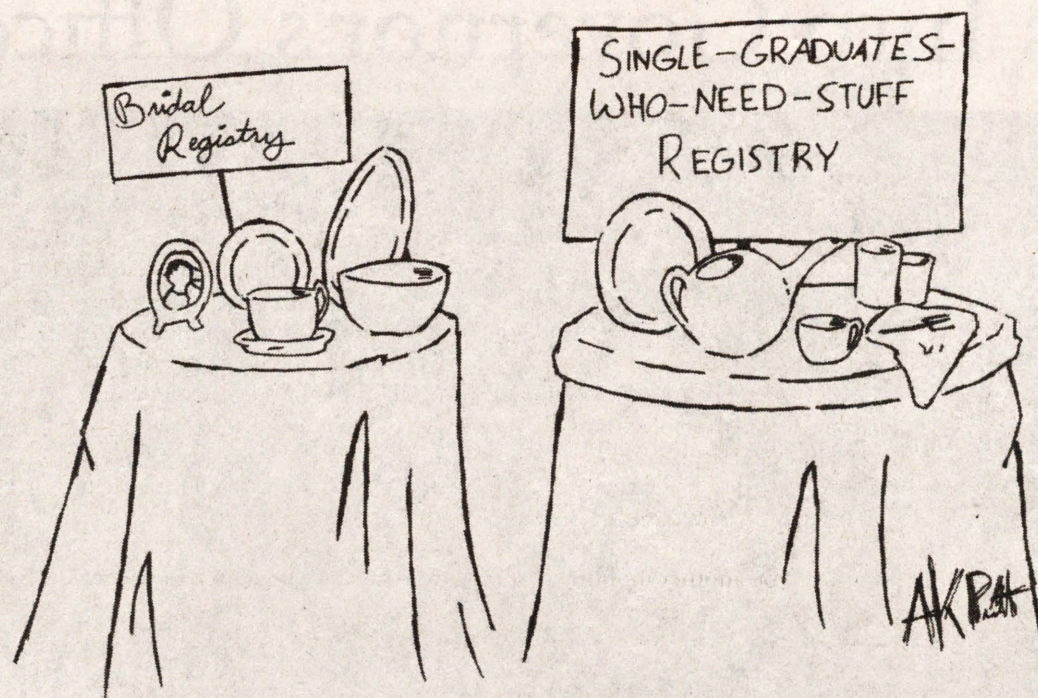
The *Bison* recognizes its responsibility to be accurate, fair and objective in its reporting while upholding the Christian ideals for which Harding University exists.

It attempts to serve as a forum for student perspectives, welcoming letters to the editor which adhere to ethical and professional standards and are no more than 300 words in length.

Signed columns appearing in the *Bison* are the views of the writer and may not reflect the official policy of the Harding University administration. Unsigned columns represent the view of the editorial board.

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## Deleted But Not Forgotten

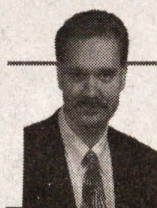
Dedicated readers of *People* magazine will recall that actress Tori Spelling had a garage sale last

December in order to pitch some household clutter. Apparently, the line of eager fans stretched for several feet outside her home in Studio City, Calif., as buyers hoped to snag a piece of “Beverly Hills 90210” history. The faithful quickly bought up tubes of Spelling’s used lip gloss and other such relics. “It’s like owning a piece of Camelot,” one ecstatic shopper said. When pressed to explain the reference to Camelot, she said, “You know . . . Elvis.”

So Hollywood has a yard sale, and the public buys its unwanted junk. This event beautifully illustrates the topic of today’s pop culture rant: the increasing presence of “deleted scenes” on DVDs. These days, when a film is released on DVD, it usually contains extra features, including scenes cut from the original theatrical version. I shall now explain why this is a cultural disaster.

For films that are truly works of art, the inclusion of deleted scenes makes sense. For example, the original director’s cut of “The Lord of the Rings” trilogy was two-and-a-half weeks long. So a number of fine scenes had to be omitted, including 48 extra minutes of the third film’s ending. To satisfy the legions of loyal Tolkien fans, the folks who name their cats Frodo, these scenes have been restored to display further evidence that director Peter Jackson is brilliant, even if the man did wear white socks to the Oscars.

But what I find troubling is the



MICHAEL CLAXTON

## Guest Space

**After the first 20 minutes, I started watching the text messages the nine-year-old in front of me was sending to a friend in Bald Knob. The dialogue was much better.**

fact that DVD versions of truly dreadful movies are now including deleted scenes. Think about it. These scenes were considered even too awful to be put in a really bad movie, and we are now expected to watch them. For instance, take the recently wretched film “The Dukes of Hazzard.” Yes, I saw this movie, mostly out of misguided nostalgia for a show from my childhood, and yes, I am seeing a therapist about it. Anyway, the movie was so terrible that after the first 20 minutes, I started watching the text messages the 9-year-old in front of me was sending to a friend in Bald Knob. The dialogue was much better.

Now, to add insult to banality, the DVD of this flop apparently includes deleted scenes that were so inane that even the moonshine-soaked director would not put them in the theatrical cut. Scenes so awful that Boss Hogg is rolling over in his grave. One could, of course, object on moral grounds to the whole “unrated” DVD fad, but my complaint is more aesthetic. This is what passes for

entertainment now: Hollywood’s abandoned footage. We have now stooped to consuming showbiz waste. While some would argue that we’ve been consuming Hollywood’s garbage for years, surely watching what a director has intentionally rejected is a new low.

And it’s not just a problem with DVDs. Viewers also eat up those special two-hour episodes of “American Idol,” rubbernecking at the awful singers who bombed their auditions. Amateurs who could never get on TV are now major celebrities on YouTube. The disgraced Miss America recently got a pardon and a book deal. Do you see a pattern here? The cutting room floor has now become box office gold.

This trend will only get worse. Soon John Grisham will release the extended versions of his novels, filled with all the fluff that his editors originally slashed. Soon McDonalds will start digging burnt food out of the trash and serving it as “Deleted Value Meals.” Soon “New Coke” will be back on the shelves. Soon Howie Mandel will host his own game show (Oh, wait . . . that’s already true). These things will happen because in our backwards America, rejection is now a sure path to fame.

All of this is bound to be good news for Milli Vanilli, but it does not bode well for the culture at large. I will mourn for us all . . . that is, as soon as I’ve finished watching those deleted scenes from “Weekend at Bernie’s.”

MICHAEL CLAXTON is a guest columnist for the *Bison* and may be contacted at mclaxto1@harding.edu

NATHAN SHANK



## Guest Space

## Product Courtesy

One thing I love about Harding is how the campus is in a state of constant improvement. This year has been a good example. Not to mention the new buildings that popped up out of nowhere, Harding renovated the lily pond, tore down those confining bush flower beds and added some very ordinary objects that I’d like to propose a theory about: trash receptacles.

Yes, I know they used to be called “trash cans” or “wastebaskets” (who would waste a perfectly good basket?), but the politically correct movement came along, dubbing them “trash receptacles,” and with that name improvement (we’re always improving things) came another little signature of the P.C. age. These new trash receptacles, complete with their molded brown plastic tops, have a two little words inscribed on the flap: Thank You.

I know what you’re thinking: I led you up to a great insight that I had had and then let you down. Well, not quite. Have you ever thought about why those words are written on the flap? Oh, sure, they’re written there so that you can be complimented for having thrown away the trash that you were supposed to anyway, right?

Wrong.

This initial wave of manners from trash receptacles is only the first in a whole league of inanimate object etiquette.

Consider the possibilities.

Before you know it, in response to this eelmosynary act of decorum by the trash receptacles, the trash itself is going to want to have a shot at good manners. Old receipts, gum wrappers and empty Sonic slushies will soon be seen with the words “You’re Welcome” written on them in thick Arial font. No more will trash be content to lie hidden on the ground for staff workers to pick up, but the inanimate trash will rise up in revolution, demanding their rightful tact and courtesy as they are thanked for being thrown away.

Don’t think that it will end there. If you give a mouse a cookie, he’s going to ask for a glass of milk, and then he’s going to say, “I appreciate the cookie” to the cookie bag who will have written on him, “Please have a cookie.” Food products across the nation will soon be emblazoned with those gorgeous symbols that we call letters, asking to be eaten with the most gracious propriety.

Inanimate object civility will skyrocket as every type of product is inscribed with felicitous words. Hard hats will be scrawled with the logo, “Please use me near places where avalanches can occur” to which the falling rocks will caution, “Watch out! I’m falling!”

Soon this manners system will progress to caveats and serious, opinionated warnings. Heavy rope will claim, “I’m better used for docking boats than making nooses.” Toxic chemicals will note that, “Although I’d rather not, I might kill you if you mix me with my friends.” Even fire alarms will make you pause saying, “Are you sure there’s really a fire?”

Mayhem will break loose as inanimate products scribe vicious conversations with each other across the food aisle at Wal-Mart. Police will rush to the scene, only to be advised by their guns to “shoot only if absolutely necessary.” The politically correct movement will have had its way with us in a grand collapse of civil order.

When that happens, you remember where it all started. You remember the trash receptacles that said “Thank You.” And you say “You’re welcome,” so your trash doesn’t have to.

NATHAN SHANK is a guest columnist for the *Bison* and may be contacted at nshank@harding.edu.

## Generation Whatever

### Younger Generation Has Reputation Of Following The Crowd

I was talking with my dad recently about my views on the war in Iraq and how public sentiments seemed to have changed over the past couple of years. Wait, before you automatically turn the page from another needless article debating the pros and cons of the current war, relax. It is not my purpose to re-hash the issues that have been discussed to the point of absurdity. That is not where I am going with this article. My point, amazingly enough, deals with something beyond the public opinion of the war and our president. Instead, my purpose lies in the character of our generation, which can be inferred from the way we react to the issues.

It seems to me that when people agreed on the issues, everyone agreed, but the moment dissent began to creep into the arena, a horrible snowball reaction occurred that has quickly taken us in the opposite direction. So that now, it is no longer “en vogue” to agree with the war. Now, I realize I am writing to a Church of Christ audience, so it might still be a popular opinion on this campus, but I am speaking of the populous as a whole. Here, we reach my point.

As the generation that follows Generation X, we have been dubbed Generation Y, but do we



LIZ LARSON

## Guest Space

**We have gained a reputation as trend followers who believe in whatever issue is popular at the time. As a group we have lost most of our credibility.**

ever really ask “why?” Why do we believe what we believe? Why do we agree or disagree with the positions presented to us? In the information age we are constantly bombarded with facts from educational institutions, religious organizations and media sources, not to mention parents and peers. But these facts are not unbiased. At every turn there is someone aiming to convince us that his or her view is the correct one. In this state of factoid-overload, it can be hard to sort through the fact and conjecture and find an opinion of one’s own, so we end up being perpetually re-conditioned in our thinking. This process starts first by our parents, then later by the school system and all the while the media and religious groups

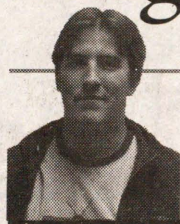
of choice are having their say as well. As a result, our generation is slowly losing the ability to think for itself. Instead, we merely take on whatever belief is popular at the time. There is so much information that it has become hard to gather data and draw a reasonable conclusion for one to support. I believe this plays a role in why our generation has gone from generation “why” to generation “whatever.”

The apathy of our generation manifests itself in many ways. One of these ways is that we have gained a reputation as trend followers who believe in whatever issue is popular at the time. As a group we have lost most of our credibility. There are some of our number who are actively engaged in formulating their own decisions, and I applaud them for it. It is not easy. So as you read through this newspaper, remember that none of these articles is truly objective, especially mine. Likewise, remain constantly aware of what we stand for. We are the future, and we need to start making a stand.

LIZ LARSON is a guest columnist for the *Bison* and may be contacted at alarson@harding.edu



## Growing Through Reluctance



COLEMAN YOAKUM

### Guest Space

**I could not begin to describe to you the spiritual growth that comes from going to another country and helping people in the name of Jesus.**

experiences of my life and the most significant of my Harding career thus far. The positive things I got out of that trip were far greater than the negative. All of my best friends today are people that I met on that trip. My past two roommates were the leader and co-leader of that campaign, and I could not begin to describe to you the spiritual growth that comes from going to another country and helping people in need in the name of Jesus.

A few months after that trip, I was again struck with a deep sense of grief due to an obligation that was coming up in the calendar. I was now having

to leave all of the friends I had made on that trip and go north 15 hours to work at a youth camp that I had never heard of, in a state that I had never been to, with two other Harding kids that I didn't really know. Again I was asking God, "Why am I doing this? What is the joke? Why did you allow me to make all of these great friends only to leave them and go to Minnesota to work in the middle of nowhere?"

My bad attitude toward the job did a lot to discourage me that summer, but in the end it turned out to be another monumental summer in my spiritual journey. I was able to build relationships with several great counselors from Harding, Oklahoma Christian University and Abilene Christian University as well as build great relationships with many of the campers that I am glad to carry on today. That summer also gave me a clearer vision of what I need to be doing with my life and what I enjoy doing the most: working with teenagers. The experience was instrumental in guiding me in my study this year. Had I called the camp and told them I was not going to be able to come,

none of these blessing would have been given to me through that experience.

God, working in both of these situations, was able to guide and direct my path for the rest of my life. I wonder sometimes what my life would be like had I not gone to Nicaragua or to Minnesota to work at that camp. This year I am leading that same campaign and am looking forward to seeing how I will grow this time as we go back and see the same people and help that same community all over again. I am also going to go back to that camp hopefully to deepen existing relationships, build new ones and learn new things about working with teenagers.

If you are in a similar situation and feel that reluctant pull not to go somewhere or to do something, remember that Satan is a powerful force who is always trying to pull you away from God, but that just makes you so much more appreciative of how much harder God can pull you back.

COLEMAN YOAKUM is a guest columnist for the *Bison* and may be contacted at [cyoakum@harding.edu](mailto:cyoakum@harding.edu)



HEATHER BROWNING

### Browning Points

## Possessions Turn Into Status Symbol

In high school, one of my best friends was brand name obsessed. She carried several different Louis Vuitton bags, shopped at Neiman Marcus and wore Chanel sunglasses, all before we turned 17. Within two years, she convinced her parents to buy her three different cars, all of with rather high sticker prices. In her mind, the most important things in life were not friends and family or things of this nature, but material possessions and money.

This mindset is not uncommon among those in their teens and early 20s. Our generation has been blessed more than any other in history, and yet we are the most selfish and materialistic. We seem to view wealth as a level of success, and this is very often not the case.

Some of the world's most successful people had nothing. Mother Theresa accomplished so many priceless things in her lifetime, and yet she died in poverty. She was poor because that is the path she chose for herself. She wanted to help others and make the world a better place instead of putting her concerns in money and possessions.

Our generation, however, is much more concerned with making millions, driving expensive cars and wearing couture clothing. While I do believe there should be more to life than just possessions, I do not feel having nice things is a sin.

Results from a recent survey of college freshmen conducted by the University of California at Los Angeles, found that close to 75 percent of students surveyed in 2006 thought it was essential to very important to be "very well-off financially." According to the survey, these results compare with 62.5 percent with those who said the same in 1980 and 42 percent in 1966, the first year the survey was done.

The results of this survey are pathetic. Personally, I think this generation needs to take a serious look at what our priorities are. We have become extremely spoiled. As far as we are concerned, receiving a car when we turn 16 is not a gift, but a necessity. Most of our parents would have been content, even surprised, to receive the keys to their mom's beat-up old mini van, but many of us, on the other hand, feel we are too good to drive this sort of car. We "deserve" something better.

While most of the responsibility for materialistic obsessions among American youth is our own fault, some of the blame falls on parents who could not tell their kids no. According to a Jan. 22. article on CNN.com, parents are spending 500 percent more money on their children than one generation earlier. This number is outrageous. No wonder many people our age think nothing of dropping \$100 on a pair of jeans.

This obsession with possession is a trend that needs to be corrected. Instead of focusing so much time and energy into getting rich, we should try to do things to make a difference. Rather than buying that new pair of jeans, donate money to charity. If nothing is done to change the American mindset, it will only get worse. If the philosophy of America's youth does not change quickly, our generation will be remembered for spending money, driving expensive sports cars and SUVs, accumulating massive amounts of credit card debt, instead of things we can take pride in.

HEATHER BROWNING serves as the editor-in-chief for the 2006-2007 *Bison*. She may be contacted at [hbrowning@harding.edu](mailto:hbrowning@harding.edu) or at 279-4471.

**We seem to view wealth as a level of success, and this is very often not the case.**

## Disability Is Blessing In Disguise



AARON COMBS

### Guest Space

**If I am able to help or influence just one person through my actions or my attitude, then it's all worth it.**

to speak slowly in monosyllabic words or treat me like a child, and it really frustrates me.

Someone once asked my mother if I was able to attend a regular school. As a matter of fact, I attend a highly prestigious school. I am the first to admit that I am an introvert, but my introversion should not be mistaken for a weak mind.

I am very open about discussing my disability, and around my closest friends I don't mind light-hearted humor about it. It's whenever I get approached negatively that I am not receptive to talking about it. I can't count the number of times people — usually children — have asked me if my legs were broken and gaze at me as if I'm the strangest, most fascinating thing they have ever seen. Some have asked me, "What's wrong with you?"

I find this to be a terribly rude question, and my response is usually, "Nothing. What's wrong with you?"

Most of the negative responses to my disability are in the past, but every once in a while I still encounter it.

I don't appreciate when people pity me because of my disability. I am very rarely in any pain as a result of it, and a vast majority of the time I am very happy. It is only when I encounter stairs, an occupied handicapped stall or other accessibility issues that I am reminded I even have a disability. I also don't like when people think that my condition is contagious and they refer to it as a "disease."

Growing up, everyone encouraged me to be independent, and I thank them for that. It has made my life a lot easier. I like to think that if an able-bodied person can do 10,000 things, I can do at least 9,000. I know people are just trying to be nice, and I appreciate that. There are times when I don't mind people opening doors for me or giving me a push, but I get annoyed when people don't respect my independence and are determined to help me. They will ask, "Hey, want a push?" I politely respond, "No, thank

you." So what do they do? They start pushing me!

Please don't misunderstand me. I know God made me disabled for a reason, and I am not bitter about it. If I am able to help or influence just one person through my actions or my attitude, then it's all worth it. I am so blessed to have friends who see me for who I am rather than just some guy in a wheelchair.

I am very pleased with the way Harding has worked to make my college experience the best it can be. People labor diligently to adapt my working environment and get me involved in activities, and for that I am extremely grateful. The most impressive thing the university has done is to provide me with a motorized wheelchair. This is a big help whenever I have to trek from one side of the campus to the other in less than 10 minutes.

In closing, let me emphasize how appreciative I am of everyone's positive response and willingness to help. I thank God daily that he gave me the privilege to attend such an outstanding university and to have so many opportunities available to me.

AARON COMBS is a guest columnist for the *Bison* and may be contacted at [acombs@harding.edu](mailto:acombs@harding.edu).

## Pro Athletes Hunger For More Money



BRANDON HIGGINS

### Guest Space

**The money-kindled flame is fueled by owners who make it apparent that they will pay whatever it takes to get players what they want.**

you'll most likely see a story about an athlete that is holding out for more money or is dishonoring the contract that he had with his team to go somewhere where the fountain of cash flows more freely.

What ever happened to playing for the love of the game? What ever happened to diving for that loose ball to get that one extra possession? What happened to running out routine ground balls and fly balls just because you know you're lucky to be doing what you're doing? Watch a baseball game on television and you'll see what I'm talking about. If a player hits a fly ball that he knows will be caught, he'll throw his bat and jog halfway to first, then go back to the dugout and think, "Oh well. Only a few more at-bats before I get my bonus."

It's saddening to think that the production that players are capable of these days isn't for the team, but rather the paycheck that bears that team's logo.

This causes many fans, including myself, to prefer collegiate athletics over the professional ranks. However, I can't say it is only the fault of the players.

The money-kindled flame is fueled by owners who make it apparent that they will pay whatever it takes to get the players what they want. The most obvious example of this is the owner of the New York Yankees, George Steinbrenner. According to [espn.com](http://espn.com), the Yankees have a combined salary of \$198,662,180. Take just a minute to digest that number.

With that much money on any given Tuesday night at Quizno's, you can rake in roughly 66 million sandwiches (remember, it's two for one). That sum will also get you around 66 million movie tickets on Tuesday nights in Searcy, which gives the New York Yankees the ability to go on approximately 33 million movie dates in Searcy on any given Tuesday. I hope this puts that sum into perspective.

Things only get wilder when you look at the salaries for individual players.

Just recently, soccer player David Beckham signed a five-year contract worth \$250 million, including endorsements. Yes, my friends, that is \$50 million per year. That's almost \$137,000 a day. And for doing what? Is he performing brain surgery, teaching the world's youth or curing cancer? That answer is an emphatic no. For \$50 million a year, you'd think he'd be able to nurse a dying panda back to health with one hand and end world hunger with the other; however, instead of doing those things, he is kicking a soccer ball into a net. Beckham's team may try to justify the money by saying this: "Hey, but nobody can bend it like Beckham."

Before we know it, we could be hearing of Beckham being benched one goal short of his league's scoring title and a nice bonus. What will he say? Will it be, "Oh well. I made almost \$137,000 today"? I highly doubt it. Instead, his statement will most likely go a little something like this: "I got stabbed in the back."

BRANDON HIGGINS is a guest columnist for the *Bison* and may be contacted at [bhiggins@harding.edu](mailto:bhiggins@harding.edu).

One thing that continually seems to blow my mind about God is how he helps, or in some cases downright makes me grow through experiences that I am not excited about at all. From time to time I will be looking ahead toward an event that I am downright dreading and am loathing having to partake in, but time after time I come out on the other side having benefited from it tremendously.

One example of this was last year when the days and hours were closing in for me to have to leave to go on my spring break campaign. I remember being in my room an hour before our bus left saying to God, "Why the heck did I sign up for this? Why am I going? Is there any way I can get out of this?" I knew the answer of course, but was still not excited about the prospects of spending a week in Nicaragua with a group of 20 people I barely knew.

However once we got there, I had to suck it up and deal with it, and in the end it turned out to be one of the most positive

My name is Aaron Combs, and I am a senior electronic media major from Newport, Ark. With weekly radio shifts on the campus FM station and experience in almost everything that occurs during a newscast, I have a lot of challenging and exciting tasks. In addition to these, this semester I will begin doing master control on TV-16 for one of my classes. Furthermore, I do all this from a wheelchair.

I was born with spina bifida, a neural tube defect in which one or more of the vertebral arches do not close entirely. So what does all this medical jargon mean? My ability to walk is limited. I hopped around on a walker until the second grade when a back surgery left me wheelchair-bound. Since then, I have been in and out of physical therapy, but I still lack the strength necessary to be as mobile as I used to be.

I think people's reactions to my disability are quite interesting and many times humorous.

Some feel that my disability has diminished my intelligence. This may be true in some cases, but in mine it is not. I have the mental capabilities of any 22-year-old.

Some people feel they need

I got stabbed in the back." Now, from whom do you think this statement comes? A bewildered friend after being betrayed by a so-called friend? A wife or husband that has just been cheated on by a spouse? How about someone whose dreams have been crushed on purpose by someone else? The answer to this question: none of the above.

This statement came from the lips of Seattle Seahawks running back Shaun Alexander after his coach benched him in a game when Alexander needed just two more yards to take home the NFL's rushing title. Because of his second-place finish, Alexander missed out on a lucrative contract bonus, thus prompting the statements that he made.

This story serves to show just how money-hungry today's athletes are. Even though Alexander's Seahawks won the NFC West Championship in that game, all he was concerned with was his personal statistics, superstar status and the money he didn't make. It seems as though stories like this have become more and more common among athletes. You can turn on the television to a sports channel on any day of the week, and



# It Only Takes

## A Spark

### Alum Embodies Harding Ideals

LESLIE GILES  
student reporter

As students embark on their college careers, Harding presents the concept of servanthood and the idea of putting others before one's self. Organizations, campaigns and projects appear under every stone and in every nook and cranny. Leaving Harding, the opportunities narrow and the burden to help rests on the individual.

For Errica Rivera, a 1991 graduate with a marketing degree, giving back to those around her is a way of life.

In 1989, Rivera was crowned the first African American homecoming queen at Harding. In 1989 and 1991 she performed as a Spring Sing hostess, and she also sang in several choral groups, including the Good News Singers and Celestial Singers.

Rivera said she believed she was setting an example for future Harding students.

"I think I became a sort of role model for them to show that there is opportunity in Christian education," Rivera said.

Now as an alumna, she still wants to help.

Rivera is working to create an African American alumni association. Named the Harding University STRONG Foundation (Standing Together to Represent Opportunities, Networking and Growth), the association's goal is to form a network of support for current and former Harding African American students, Rivera said.

"That's the real purpose of this group, to serve as that support group and serve as role models for them to show what can be done beyond college," Rivera said.

Rivera developed the idea for

"It's important to get an education, but it's also important to use that education to give back in anyway you can."

ERRICA RIVERA

HU STRONG while organizing an internship program for other colleges as part of her job. She is the director of business operations for Tom Joyner, a nationally syndicated radio host. Rivera said she noticed the impact the program had on students and realized many of those colleges had strong alumni bases.

"I thought, if I'm able to do this for colleges I didn't even attend, I should at least be able to give back in some sort of way to the college I attended," Rivera said.

Rivera said she believes strongly in alumni taking an active interest in their alma maters.

"It's important to get an education, but it's also important to use that education to give back in any way you can," Rivera said. "I see so many people who do well in their careers, but they never look back to see who else could use that nudge, that encouragement."

Rivera has been working with several people to create this association, including Don Eudaly, advancement regional director.

"I'm very grateful that she has tried to put something together that would promote Harding and promote any of our students," Eudaly said.

Eudaly said they wanted to have a kickoff celebration of HU STRONG during Homecoming last October but were unable to do so. Their goal is to introduce this alumni association during Spring Sing 2007 when many

alumni are visiting campus.

"It's just a matter of us coordinating efforts and making sure that when we come on campus we have an agenda and are ready to move forward," Rivera said.

Rivera lives in Dallas with her husband, who serves as the multi-cultural and family minister at the Mountain View Church of Christ. Rivera organized a mentoring program in her church, encouraging intergenerational fellowship between older and younger women. Her ultimate goal is to create a foundation of her own to help the community.

"I do work in the community, and I see a lot of the need out there," Rivera said. "But sometimes there just aren't the financial resources to assist."

Rivera, who has experience in human resources, said she wants to create a center where people from the community can learn job readiness skills, such as resume preparation and interview etiquette.

"There are a lot of moms out there who would love to work but don't know where to start," Rivera said. "Maybe this will be some type of center where they can go to get the skills that they would need to be marketable in the workplace."

Rivera encourages students and alumni to find ways to become involved on campus and in their communities. She invites anyone who is interested in HU STRONG to contact her at [erricarivera@yahoo.com](mailto:erricarivera@yahoo.com).

"You don't have to be African American to participate in this organization," Rivera said. "You can participate if you think that there's something of value in it. We want everyone to be involved and to give back."

PHOTO COURTESY/Public Relations



PHOTO COURTESY/Errica Rivera



# SPORTS & LEISURE

# BISON

*the*



February 2, 2007

## Not Half Bad!

How The Schools Stack Up Halfway Through The GSC West Schedule

### Bisons



### Lady Bisons



Henderson State Reddies  
Record: 15-5, 6-1  
Last Meeting: Harding lost 60-58 on Jan. 20  
Next Meeting: Feb. 17 in Arkadelphia, Ark.

Delta State Lady Statesmen  
Record: 15-3, 5-1  
Last Meeting: Harding lost 57-51 on Jan. 11  
Next Meeting: Feb. 8 in Cleveland, Miss.



Delta State Statesmen  
Record: 15-4, 5-2  
Last Meeting: Harding lost 78-65 on Jan. 11  
Next Meeting: Feb. 8 in Cleveland, Miss.

Harding Lady Bisons  
Record: 15-5, 5-2  
Next Game: Feb. 8 in Cleveland, Miss.



Christian Brothers Buccaneers  
Record: 15-5, 4-3  
Last Meeting: Harding won 64-52 on Jan. 27  
Next Meeting: Feb. 24 at Rhodes Field House

Arkansas Tech Golden Suns  
Record: 12-7, 5-2  
Last Meeting: Harding lost 63-54 on Jan. 18  
Next Meeting: Feb. 15 at Rhodes Field House



Harding Bisons  
Record: 11-9, 4-3  
Next Meeting: Feb. 8 in Cleveland, Miss.

Southern Arkansas Lady Muleriders  
Record: 8-10, 5-2  
Last Meeting: Harding won 74-50 on Jan. 25  
Next Meeting: Feb. 22 in Magnolia, Ark.



Ouachita Baptist Tigers  
Record: 9-10, 3-4  
Last Meeting: Harding lost 77-76 on Jan. 13  
Next Meeting: Feb. 10 at Rhodes Field House

Henderson State Reddies  
Record: 15-5, 6-1  
Last Meeting: Harding lost 60-58 on Jan. 20  
Next Meeting: Feb. 17 in Arkadelphia, Ark.



Arkansas-Monticello Boll Weevils  
Record: 8-11, 3-4  
Last Meeting: Harding won 87-76 on Jan. 6

Ouachita Baptist Lady Tigers  
Record: 10-9, 2-5  
Last Meeting: Harding won 70-69 on Jan. 13  
Next Meeting: Feb. 10 at Rhodes Field House



Southern Arkansas Muleriders  
Record: 8-12, 2-5  
Last Meeting: Harding won 65-55 on Jan. 25  
Next Meeting: Feb. 22 in Magnolia, Ark.

Arkansas-Monticello Cotton Blossoms  
Record: 6-14, 2-5  
Last Meeting: Harding won 76-66 on Jan. 6



Arkansas Tech Wonder Boys  
Record: 4-15, 0-7  
Last Meeting: Harding won 77-69 on Jan. 18  
Next Meeting: Feb. 15 at Rhodes Field House

Christian Brothers Lady Buccaneers  
Record: 7-12, 0-7  
Last Meeting: Harding won 80-68 on Jan. 27  
Next Meeting: Feb. 24 at Rhodes Field House





# Bisons Return To The Diamond

**JACOB SPILLMAN**  
student reporter

Bison baseball is here once again. Harding opens its schedule today against Evangel at 2 p.m.

"This is not the team of the past," senior first baseman Devin Watts said.

When spectators make their way out to Jerry Moore Field, they might see his point.

"This team has a greatly improved chemistry and a sense of pride and ownership that has been missing in years past," sophomore catcher Ryan Moody said.

These two things are just a fraction of the improvements the Bisons have noticed under second-year coach Dr. Patrick McGaha.

"[Coach McGaha] is real big on small ball: pitching, defense and making routine plays," junior shortstop Bo Whitaker said. "He's a really smart guy who knows his baseball."

McGaha has taught the team what it is to be a team, which has improved their off-field relationships with each other, Watts said.

Whitaker said he is excited about the recruiting class of freshmen and transfers from junior colleges McGaha has

added this season.

When McGaha, his staff and the team met together for the first time in the fall, they set for themselves the goal of making it to the Gulf South Conference Tournament, Moody said. To better understand the hard work, determination and sacrifice required to reach this goal, the team has coined "Whatever It Takes" as this season's motto.

Watts said the road to the GSC Tournament will prove tough as the young, talented conference saw teams lose only a small number of players to graduation while adding more talent with recruiting classes. The reigning champion, Southern Arkansas, looks to be a considerable obstacle for the Bisons to overcome, as does Delta State, a team ranked nationally on a consistent basis.

While achieving its goal will be difficult, the Bisons feel optimistic about their chances, Watts said. They are very excited about the return of senior Jordan Blake after his season-ending injury last spring.

"He is a great leader on the team, and even though he won't be pitching anymore, it is great to have him back on the field," Moody said.



Freshman pitcher Daniel Morgan hurls the ball toward home plate during a Bison baseball practice Monday this week. Harding opens its season under second-year coach Dr. Patrick McGaha against Evangel at 2 p.m. today.

"A guy like that is just irreplaceable."

Moody said this year's pitching staff has seen remarkable improvement in both talent and ability. The

team now has a roster with depth at every position and a number of guys who can effectively play multiple places on the field.

The baseball team will

host 36 home games this season, including an 18 game home stand from March 2-25. Harding begins conference play March 17 against Southern Arkansas.

## Race For The Jacket Resumes

**CARSON FANT**  
student reporter

As the spring semester begins, so does the second half of the intramural sports season. Participation is up from recent years and the competition for the year-end awards resumes.

Men's intramural basketball began Jan. 22, kicking off another semester of competition in sports ranging from softball to archery.

Several of the sports are individual, but it is the team sports that see the most participation, especially this year.

"Team sports for men's intramurals are very strong and growing," men's intramural director Jim Gowen said. "This year there have been increases in all sports so far."

Fall team sports include flag football, fall softball and volleyball.

With basketball signups completed, the participation spike appears as if it will continue through the spring.

"The number of players that have signed up [for basketball] is the largest since I have directed the program," Gowen said. "I am looking forward to a very competitive round-robin tournament."

Other team sports in the spring semester are spring softball and soccer, both of which begin play in March.

Individual athletes are also competing for awards to be given out at the end of the

Men's Intramural Competition	
Casey McDonald	1340
T.J. Leonard	1150
Sean McNichols	1145
Todd Sparks	1070
Cole Coubrough	930
Randall Gabriel	860
Tyler Stafford	675

spring semester. The awards are given based on points that athletes accumulate in competition throughout the school year. Points are given for participation, success in tournaments, championships won and being chosen to all-star teams. Awards include the Intramural Athlete of the Year, sports skills champion, Intramural Spirit Award and the intramural jacket.

With competition for the 2006-2007 awards almost halfway completed, contestants are in a close fight to be No. 1.

"Competition this year is very strong," Gowen said. "There is a six-way race for the top spots."

One of the athletes near the top is junior Casey McDonald. This past fall, McDonald competed in fall softball, volleyball, tennis and table tennis, which is still in competition. This spring proves to be another busy semester with basket-

ball, spring softball and racquetball on the schedule among others. Although basketball was his best sport, he enjoys playing softball the most, McDonald said. This is McDonald's third year to compete in Harding's intramural program.

To earn an intramural jacket, athletes must compete in a number of sports. They must compete in all team sports, although a choice can be made between two sports playing simultaneously, such as flag football and fall softball. They must also compete in a number of singles and doubles sports, sports-skills competitions and at least one individual sport.

Singles and doubles sports include tennis, table tennis and racquetball. Sports-skill competitions are held for softball throw for distance, softball base-run for time, football pass for distance, football punt for distance, free throw shooting, archery, timed rope jump as well as an "Ups" contest consisting of push-ups, pull-ups and sit-ups.

Athletes vying for men's Intramural Athlete of the Year must compete in and complete swimming, the cross-country race or the pursuit race.

The men's rope jump and free throw competitions will be held in January. The "Ups" contests and swim meet will be in February. The archery contest and pursuit race will be in March and April, respectively.

## Athlete Of The Week



**Jacque Fredendall**

- 6'0" Junior forward from Lebanon, Mo.
- Scored a 16 points and added 15 rebounds against SAU
- Garnered her fifth double-double of the season

CRAIG RAINBOLT/The Bison

**FEBRUARY 4, 2007**  
**MIAMI, FLORIDA**  
**5:00 P.M. ON CBS**

DANIEL WADE

4th and 1



## A Few Good Men

When did head coach become such a glorified position? I mean seriously. Take a look around and you'll find college football coaches who earn more than the president of their colleges. NFL coaches making minimum wage are bringing home at least \$1 million per season and many earn upwards of \$4 million per season. With the flood of media, money and celebrity status, the head coaching position today is vastly different than it once was.

Bobby Petrino left his recent bowl win with a successful Louisville team that he constructed to be a "difference maker" with the Atlanta Falcons and Michael Vick, according to team owner Arthur Blank. What happened to the 10-year contract to stay in Louisville for the long haul? Oh well ... at least Petrino can ask Steve Spurrier and Nick Saban how to make that jump successfully.

After repeatedly lying publicly about his interest in the job, Nick Saban left his mock-rebuilding of the Dolphins to bring in a "new era of Crimson Tide football," Alabama athletic director Mal Moore said. It's "SABAN TIME," screamed the Tuscaloosa News.

Alabama hired the guy that walked out on LSU, walked out on the Dolphins and tucked tail and ran back to the glory of college football. Oh, by the way, there's also \$32 million guaranteed to him over the next eight years making him the highest paid coach in college football. USA Today columnist Jon Saraceno said it best when he proclaimed "Roll Tide Roll ... right to a Brink's truck".

Believe it or not, there are head coaches today who embody that positive role model we should be looking for in a coach. And we need look no further than the Super Bowl to do so. Indianapolis head coach Tony Dungy and Chicago's Lovie Smith are two such men. They preach character and integrity and live by those very same words. They serve their communities, care about their players and honor their Lord and families. And they also happen to be extraordinary coaches.

Sure, they both happen to be making history as the first black coaches in the Super Bowl, but that's not the point. Something as trivial as their skin color certainly doesn't define them as coaches. Smith was last season's Coach of the Year, and Dungy has won more regular season games than any coach since 1999. Tell me what color has to do with that.

So who wins the Super Bowl? Well I've got my opinion and, you've got yours. But it really doesn't matter. I'm just satisfied that whatever the outcome ... finally a good guy will win.

DANIEL WADE serves as the sports editor for the 2006-2007 *Bison*. He may be contacted at [wwade@harding.edu](mailto:wwade@harding.edu)

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# Best Yet To Come For Music In 2007

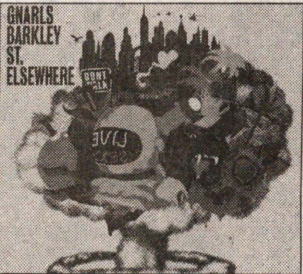
**KRYSTLE BOISE**  
student reporter

I don't know about you, but 2006 was a disappointing year in alternative rock with a few notable exceptions. Sure, I ran to Hastings to get "The Black Parade" and "Continuum" on or near their release dates, but the majority of the additions to my music collection has ranged from average to disappointing. What's more, there wasn't one song that I'll remember into the new year, although I'd be lying if I said I haven't attempted to bust out Gnarls Barkley in the confines of my car (By the way, Rolling Stone named "Crazy" as the No.1 song of 2006).

However, I suggest you make room on your iPod

(or just buy a bigger one) and save up your money because 2007 will easily top 2006. There is an abundance of new albums set to be released this year, but here are a few of the ones I'm most excited about.

The five electronic-savvy boys that compose Motion City Soundtrack are spending their winter in New York City putting together their third album. Working alongside people who helped produce albums with Girls Against Boys



and The Cars, they are happy to work with people they've "always admired as not only musicians, but as producers as well" according to the band's Web site. I was pleased that the band's release "Commit This to Memory" in 2005 wasn't too stylistically different from the first release "I Am the Movie" in 2003, and considering how much I adore the pseudo-techno beats of Motion City Soundtrack, I'm ready for round three.

If you want a good laugh, drive by Best Buy in North Little Rock the morning of the new Coheed and Cambria release. I'll have pitched a tent outside the front door, awaiting the album that will complete the four-album storyline Coheed and Cambria's songs

revolve around. Think "Star Wars," only with progressive rock music. The band's Web site confirms they are playing the Warped Tour this summer, which is enough justification for me to stand out in a parking lot in the middle of a typically hot Texas summer to get a glimpse of lead singer Claudio Sanchez's outrageous hair. I don't read Harry Potter, I don't watch "24" or "Grey's Anatomy" and I've never listened to Rush, but I'm dying to get the last piece of the Coheed and Cambria story. If that makes me a nerd, so be it.

I've been waiting for The Ataris' "Welcome the Night" since I was a senior in high school, so it's been almost five years. I'm expecting to be disappointed, considering how two of the



original four members have been replaced by three new guys — and one of them plays the cello. Who knows, I'll give them a fair shot on Feb. 20 when the album shows up on the shelves.

Perhaps the album I am most anticipating, set to hit the shelves Feb. 6, is the fourth installment of Fall Out Boy "Infinity on High." After the success of "Take This To Your Grave" and "From Under the Cork Tree," I have no doubts the boys will continue to

climb the ladder of success, regardless of snide remarks from the Fall Out Boy's "Evening Out With Your Girl" enthusiasts (I must admit, I am one as well). I'm interested in checking out the live EP that will reside in the disk itself; this bonus was added to the new release to combat the leaking of the album. It's rather clever that the live EP is called "Leaked in London."

The year 2007 will also bring new ones from As I Lay Dying and Emery.

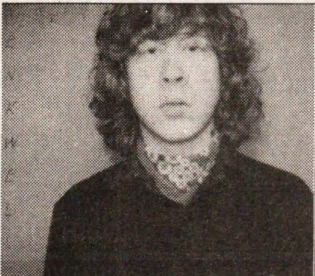
The bottom line is if The Shins' "Wincing the Night Away" is any indication of what this year has in store for the music business, things that were constants might be tweaked a bit, but we will be proud of the end product — I hope.

## Talent Beyond His Years

**DEREK MCCORMICK**  
student reporter

It would appear as if Ben Kweller began his music career almost before he could spell the word. Even before he was old enough to begin school, he would pick up his toy guitar and attempt to play like one of father's friends, Nils Lofgren, who had a part in Bruce Springsteen's career. He also began to play the piano at a very young age and by the age of nine had received honorable mention in a young songwriter's contest for Billboard. Kweller was a member of several small locally known bands during his teen years, which afforded him deserved recognition. After moving to Brooklyn, N.Y., Kweller began his solo career for ATO, all before turning 20 years old.

Kweller's first solo album, "Sha Sha," was a big hit in the indie scene and is so far his best record to date. "Sha Sha" was followed up by "On My Way," which, although it's a well-written album, didn't have the same impact as



its predecessor. Last fall Kweller released his fourth full-length album self-titled "Ben Kweller." On this record he wrote every note and played every instrument, which is slightly lower than "Sha Sha" on his long list of accomplishments.

This record begins and ends with the same unforgettable innocence his fans have come to recognize and cherish. His pop/rock style, while remaining intact for the most part, has taken on more of a late '70s vibe as opposed to the more modern-rock sound of "Sha Sha." This album is packed deep with meaningful lyrics that are easy to sing along to. However, songs like "Nothing Happening" and "Penny on the Train Track" have a tone that makes Kweller seem wise beyond years, while others, such as "I Gotta Move," reek of boyish fervor.

The opening track, "Run," is a catchy love ballad that has Kweller longing to run with a significant other by saying, "I have ran everywhere you can run/ but with you it's much more fun/ so let's run." It is one of the better songs on the album. "Nothing Happening" is arguably one of the best songs lyrically on the album, although not quite as good as previous works such as "Hospital Bed." Just reading the lyrics alone you can feel the deep desire to be with someone, but

knowing that it won't work, no matter what lengths you go to. Kweller pleads with the girl on the other end of this song to, "... focus on tomorrow, instead of right now," while the very next stanza has him singing, "Nothin' happenin.' It's all an illusion."

The first two songs along with the third, "Sundress," could easily stand alone as singles. Which put simply, is an all-around good song to listen to. On the other hand, the following song "I Gotta Move" is too easy. The lyrics are juvenile and the music is nothing special.

The remaining tracks are typical Ben Kweller. There isn't really one song of the remaining 11 that stands out above the others. Ben Kweller has the unique ability to write simple music, as opposed to other artists, yet make the listener remember him. From the first time I listened to "Sha Sha" I knew Kweller would be an artist improving with time and would demand attention.

This album may not "rock" like his past works, but it does have talent and a special spark that brings the listener back. The lyrics are strong as a whole, and as a musician, Ben Kweller has steadily grown into a man while keeping his innocence and boyish flair. If I had my own stamp of approval, you'd see it on there.

### Karaoke Night



Sophomore Michael Crouch sings "I'll Be There For You" Jan. 18 during Karaoke Night in the student center. Students chose from a variety of songs to perform in front of their peers.

## Brain Stimulators

### Sudoku

		4					3
		2	7	5			1
		9	6	3			8
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	8	1				7	2
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5				4	7	1	
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Difficulty

### Cryptique

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QXWR XM  
CWXXBKC XAW  
XABKCQ GMI  
POKX MIX MS  
EBSW BQ XABQ:  
HWJBHW PAOX  
GMI POKX."  
M equals O

Difficulty

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ALEXA JOHNSTON  
What Of It?

# And The Academy Award Nominees Are...

Deep, peaceful slumber abruptly stops from the loud, alarming clangs of the telephone ringing in the ear. Irritation immediately surfaces but fades quickly into feelings of joy when the voice at the other end of the phone informs the listener of his or her nomination for an Academy Award — the Super Bowl of award shows.

Many other ceremonies made several attempts to run in the same league as the Oscars but always seem to fall short. Truthfully, I don't even see the point of having 15 different award ceremonies. All that does is either deemphasize the decision of the Academy Awards and further boost the egos of celebrities or prove that everyone is entitled to a difference of opinions, which would discredit the practice of having any award shows at all. So for purposes of this column, I say we stick to the tried and true: the Academy Awards.

Considering the Oscars make up 24 different categories, I will only take up your time with the most important nominees that deserve some serious time and reflection.

The Academy is a non-profit organization comprised of various professionals in the film industry. Their credentials suggest they reserve the right to form a well-rounded opinion, but assuming they need a little assistance from an ordinary film viewer, I can't help but throw in my two cents in.

The first of the top three categories is best actress, one that has recently stepped into the spotlight for women's breakout roles such as Halle Berry in 2001's "Monster's Ball" for becoming the first African American woman to win for best actress, and Hilary Swank in 2004's "Million Dollar Baby" for playing an older female boxer with no chance of winning. Some may think "big deal," but

when actresses compete for the glamorous roles that will portray them as flawless creatures, Swank took the risk of choosing the role of a lifetime over the chance to enhance her own image.

The nominees this year followed suit. Four of the five actresses take on the darker, controversial roles, but Meryl Streep chose the comedic route as Miranda in the novel-based "The Devil Wears Prada." As talented as she was in that movie playing the ice queen of the fashion magazine industry, my vote is with Helen Mirren in "The Queen," as she portrays Queen Elizabeth II and her dealing with the death of Diana. The task of playing a distinct non-fictional character who is a predominant figure in the world leaves plenty of room for errors, but Mirren performs with dignity and grace.

Next, and probably my favorite, is best actor. I assume all the men put on great performances, but two stuck with me in different ways. Will Smith in "The Pursuit of Happiness," based on a true story, is by far his best role up to date. Smith plays Chris Gardner, a man competing in the stockbroker internship but is homeless and tries to take care of his son at the same time. Talk about a tearjerker. Don't misunderstand. This isn't a cheesy movie by any means, and long gone are the "Fresh Prince of Bel Air" days. Smith proves he has matured into a strong leading actor.

My other favorite is Leonardo DiCaprio in "Blood Diamond." Here we have another case of a talented actor who only continues to grow from his days climbing up Juliet's balcony and attempting to safely get off a sinking ship. Here we see him as a diamond smuggler in South Africa, but as the story progresses, the audience learns more about the harsh truths of the history of

"Truthfully, I don't even see the point of having 15 different award ceremonies ... I say we stick to the tried and true, the Academy Awards."

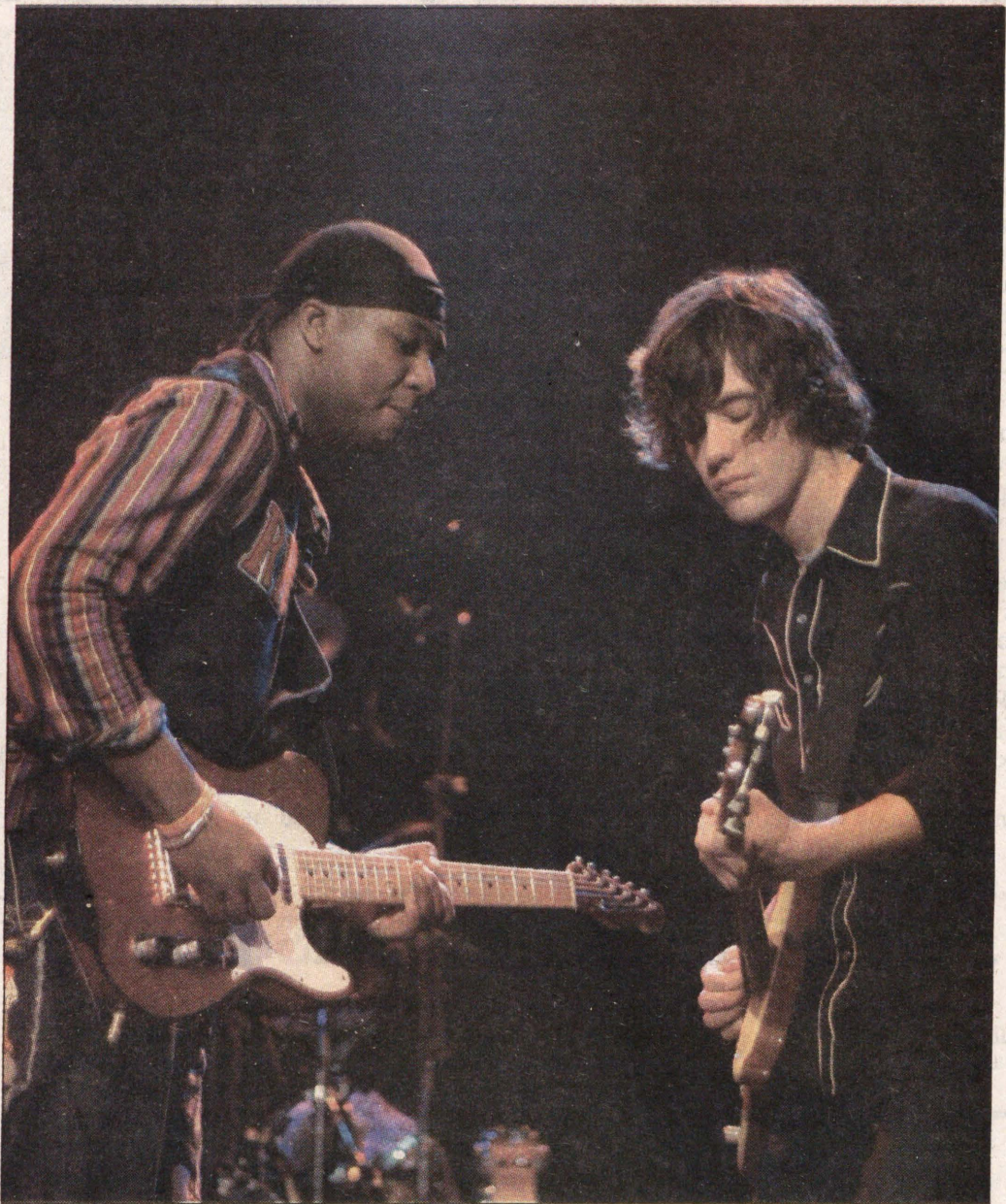
diamonds. DiCaprio's perfected accent is not the only thing that should prove his talent; he completely immerses himself into the role to the extent that I hadn't even realized two hours had passed. Supposedly neither of my picks is expected to take home the gold, but I believe both actors gave exceptional performances.

The last category is none other than the best picture. The best director category seems a bit redundant because if a director's movie wins best picture, then he or she obviously did a good job directing, but if another movie wins, then someone else did a better job directing; just an observation. The line-up is probably the most random assortment of films I have ever seen, but no one asked me. "Babel," "The Departed," "Letters From Iwo Jima," "Little Miss Sunshine" and "The Queen" made the cut.

I'm not entirely sure how one would decipher which one is better than the other considering the differences each one possesses, but if I had to take a guess as to which one would win or deserve the ultimate glory, I would go out on a limb and say "The Queen." It's powerful; it's risky and connects with most who can remember when Diana passed. Yes, I know several factors come into play, but this is strictly speaking from an amateur's perspective.

Although the Oscars tend to exude a superficial persona, somehow I find myself hooked every year. It is true they have somewhat lost the glamour once seen in the '30s and '40s, but there is something to be said for tradition and a night when celebrities reveal a hint of being human and a bit of vulnerability. I can't help liking it.

# Keeping It All In The Family



JONATHAN LINDSAY/The Bison

Senior Carson Medders performs with Robert Randolph on stage during the concert. Robert Randolph and the Family Band played Jan. 26 in the Benson Auditorium for Harding and the public.

## Robert Randolph And The Family Band Performed

J CLIFF GANUS  
student reporter

The stage was all set for a great concert. Hundreds of students were packed into the front rows of the Benson Auditorium, and music was blasting from the speakers getting the crowd hyped up for what was to come. And when Robert Randolph and the Family Band walked out on stage, no one was disappointed.

From the very first song it was clear this was going to be a superior concert. Frontman Robert Randolph sat down at his pedal lap steel guitar and began to jam. His two cousins, Marcus and Danyel, began to jam along with him. They were all soon joined by Jason Crosby on the organ and keyboards, and once they all started it was hard to tell if they were going to be able to stop.

The energy in the auditorium was high, everyone swaying to the music, singing along to songs they didn't know, clapping hands exhaustively just because the music was that powerful.

Robert Randolph and the Family Band has a sound that mixes gospel and funk into a waiting jam. Robert

"The energy in the auditorium was high, everyone swaying to the music, singing to songs they didn't know..."

Randolph began playing the lap steel as a member of a church band and gained wide acclaim for his talent. He has been asked to participate in such projects as "The Word" with John Medeski His exposure also secured Randolph a place on Rolling Stone's "100 Greatest Guitarists of All Time."

The band released their first album, "Live at the Wetlands," in 2002. One year later they put out their first studio album, "Unclassified." This album was a big hit with blues/funk/jam/steel enthusiasts, and caught the ear of famed guitarist Eric Clapton, who subsequently invited them to tour with him as a supporting band.

The Family Band released their third album "Colorblind" in October. The song "Ain't Nothing Wrong With That" became a huge hit, getting radio play all over the country and earning prominence on NBC's promotions, ads for AT&T and as the credit's track on the new movie

"Stomp the Yard."

However, all the notoriety and climbing fame has not gone to the band's collective head. When they are on the stage they make the audience feel as if this is the only place they ever want to be. And the crowd is thrilled to be there with them.

Harding shows are not typically known for their "high energy," but you could hardly keep this crowd down. This powerful music lifted people out of their gloom, out of their seats and off the ground (and eventually off the stage). The crowd was so swept up during the fan favorite "Shake Ya Hips" some people jumped onstage. After the commotion, the band finished out their set and an encore.

During one number, Randolph invited junior Carson Medders onstage to play with the band; though his intentions were likely not for Medders to outplay the band. The group participation continued through some audience sung choruses on "I Need More Love."

The Benson was swept away with this concert ... and there ain't nothing wrong with that.

79th Annual Academy Awards  
Feb. 25, 7 p.m. on ABC

## Answers from page 3b

7	8	6	6	1	5	3	4	2
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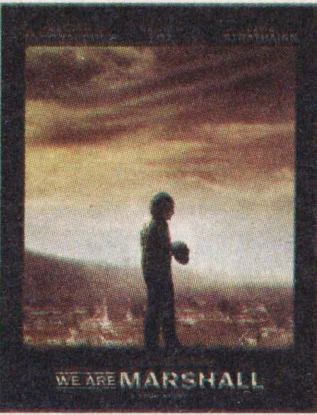
-Ben Stein

“THE FIRST STEP TO GETTING THE THINGS YOU WANT OUT OF LIFE IS THIS: DECIDE WHAT YOU WANT.”

# McConaughey Scores Touchdown

LEIGH HUTCHINSON  
student reporter

Not just another predictable football film, "We Are Marshall," a film directed and produced by McG, who is also known for his work in "Charlie's Angels" and television's "The O.C.," is an inspiring and uplifting movie, one of those "ashes to glory" stories about how life can go on, even after hard times.



In 1970, Marshall University, located in Huntington, W.Va. and, in 1970, endured what is probably known today as the most horrendous loss experienced by any collegiate organization. Marshall lost 37 members of the football team, 25 community members, eight coaches and five crew members on the night of November 14, 1970.

While on their way home from Greenville, N. C. after a close and disappointing loss, their plane crashed into a hill due to poor visibility from bad weather and immediately burst into flames. All on board were killed on impact; sons, daughters, fathers, fiancés and families were torn apart that night, never to become whole again. Marshall University was left without a football team. The movie depicts how, despite emotional disputes

and fighting against the majority of citizens' wishes, the athletic department was rebuilt. Matthew McConaughey plays eccentric, football-loving head coach, Jack Lengyel and is aided by his right-hand man Red Dawson ("Lost's" Matthew Fox).

"We Are Marshall" was a very gratifying movie. I left the theater with a sense of humility.

The movie captures the essence of what Huntington must have gone through during that tough time. The story added special focus on a few on the town's citizens and certain relationships broken by the crash, adding a more personal aspect to the movie.

The link between what happened and how Marshall is still affected by the crash today was well thought out. The movie included pictures of various

people and things, including the crash, giving the audience a sense of connection.

The soundtrack, written and composed by Christophe Beck, is also well done. The music added an extra flair to the movie. "We Are Marshall" is being categorized with movies such as "Rudy," "Remember the Titans" and "Hoosiers" for their common bond in having truth to their story and being related to sports history.

McG, despite the not-so-serious name, definitely took this job seriously in this tragedy-turned-movie. Be sure to bring your tissues; weepy eyes filled the theater when I saw it. "We Are Marshall" is a wonderful, inspiring movie. It just shows that we really do not know what tomorrow brings and should be grateful for each day.